Table of Contents

1. ALLEGIANCES
2. Chapter One; Intruders on ThunderClan Territory
3. Chapter Two; Goldenleafs' Kits
4. Chapter Three; The Gathering
5. Chapter Four; ShadowClans' New Arrival
6. Chapter Five; The Dream and a WindClan Tresspasser
7. Chapter Six; Harepaws' Punishment and A Prophecy
8. Chapter Seven; Training
9. Chapter Eight; Ravenpaws' Gift and Frostflowers' Secret
10. Chapter Nine; Redstars Possible Backdown
11. Chapter Ten; The Dreams
12. Chapter Eleven; Journey To The Moonpool
13. Chapter Twelve; The Journey Begins
14. Chapter Thirteen; The Wolves
15. Chapter Fourteen; The Threat From Tigerstar
16. Chapter Fifteen; The Cats Find Themselves Being Followed
17. Chapter Sixteen; Frostflower
18. Chapter Seventeen; Gorsepaws' Attack
19. Chapter Eighteen; Friends Again!
20. Chapter Nineteen; Dawnfire Finds Herself Back In The Dark Forest
21. Chapter Twenty: Greynose
22. Chapter Twenty One; The Bears
23. Chapter Twenty Two: Ravenpaw Becomes A Warrior
24. Chapter Twenty Three; The Fight
25. Chapter Twenty Four; Rippletails' Death
26. Chapter Twenty Five; The Journey Home
27. Chapter Twenty Six; The Sky
28. Chapter Twenty Seven; The Forgotten Clan
29. Chapter Twenty Eight; The Journey Continues
30. Chapter Twenty Nine; Not Again
31. Chapter Thirty; More Secrets?
32. Chapter Thirty One: Home
33. Chapter Thirty Two; The End

34. Just an update :)

ALLEGIANCES

THUNDERCLAN

LEADER: **Redstar** - ginger tom with green eyes

DEPUTY: **Runningshadow** - dark grey she-cat with blue eyes. *Apprentice - Hawkpaw*

MEDICINE CAT: **Mossnose** - tortoiseshell and white she-cat, pale amber eyes

WARRIORS: *(toms and she-cats without kits)*

Mudpelt - brown tabby tom with amber eyes

Salem - powerful black tom with amber eyes and long claws. *Former rouge*

Dawnfire - pretty ginger she-cat with one pale ginger paw and green eyes. *Apprentice - Poppypaw*

Frostflower - beautiful white she-cat with ice blue eyes. *Apprentice - Dovepaw*

Greynose - pale grey tom with a dark grey muzzle and amber eyes

Foxclaw - dark ginger tom with green eyes. *Apprentice - Ravenpaw*

APPRENTICES: *(cats older than six moons old, in training to become warriors)*

Hawkpaw - lithe brown tabby tom with white chest and paws

Poppypaw - blue-grey she-cat with blue eyes

Dovepaw - pretty she-cat with a very pale grey coat and pale blue eyes

Ravenpaw - sleek black tom with leafy green eyes

QUEENS: *(she-cats expecting or nursing kits)*

Goldenleaf - pale ginger with amber eyes. Mother to *Brightkit*, *Dapplekit* and *Stromkit*

ELDERS: *(retired cats, too old to be warriors)*

Horsetail - long haired sandy coloured tom with pale green eyes.

SHADOWCLAN

LEADER: **Rainstar** - blue-grey tom with green eyes

DEPUTY: **Cinderfoot** - dark grey tom with amber eyes

MEDICINE CAT: **Woodpelt** - wiry brown tom with no tail.
Apprentice - Leafpaw

WARRIORS: *(toms and she-cats without kits)*

Rockfall - Black tom (with grey and brown flecks) and green eyes

Stormpelt - pale grey tom with black paws and tail, blue eyes.
Apprentice - Jaypaw

Nettlefoot - brown and black tabby tom with amber eyes.
Apprentice - Bluepaw

Snowheart - white she-cat with blue eyes

APPRENTICES: *(cats older than six moons old, in training to become warriors)*

Leafpaw - white she cat with a brown tail and paws and green eyes

Jaypaw - grey tabby tom with pale blue eyes

Bluepaw - blue-grey she-cat with blue eyes

QUEENS: *(she-cats expecting or nursing kits)*

Owlfur - brown and black with amber eyes. Mother to *Waspkit* and *Darkkit*, mate to *Nettlefoot*

Daffodil - pale ginger with amber eyes, former rouge. Mother to *Lionkit* and *Willowkit*

WINDCLAN

LEADER: **Cloudstar** - fluffy white tom with pale blue eyes

DEPUTY: **Ashcloud** - grey she-cat with blue eyes. *Apprentice - Gorsepaw*

MEDICINE CAT: **Brackenpelt** - ginger tom with green eyes

WARRIORS: *(toms and she-cats without kits)*

Kestrelwing - golden tom with darker flecks and amber eyes

Flamepelt - ginger tom with green eyes. *Apprentice - Harepaw*

Breezetail - very fast black tom with amber eyes

Morningsky - pale grey she-cat with blue eyes

APPRENTICES: *(cats older than six moons old, in training to become warriors)*

Gorsepaw - ginger and white tom with green eyes

Harepaw -small brown tom with blue eyes

ELDERS: *(retired cats, too old to be warriors)*

Crowfur - black tom with blue eyes

RIVERCLAN

LEADER: **Mistystar** - blue-grey she-cat with pale blue eyes

DEPUTY: **Reedwhisker** - black tom with green eyes

MEDICINE CAT: **Rippletail** - silver tabby she-cat with blue eyes. *Apprentice - Birchpaw*

WARRIORS: *(toms and she-cats without kits)*

Emberstream - ginger tom with green eyes. *Apprentice - Bramblepaw*

Shadefur - grey tom with blue eyes

Whiteflower - pretty white she cat with blue eyes

Stumpytail - brown tabby tom with no tail and green eyes

Silverpebble - pretty silver she cat with ice blue eyes

APPRENTICES: *(cats older than six moons old, in training to become warriors)*

Birchpaw - small tabby tom with green eyes

Bramblepaw - pale brown she-cat with amber eyes

QUEENS: *(she-cats expecting or nursing kits)*

Shellheart - white and silver with blue eyes

Whiteflower - pretty white she cat with blue eyes. Mother to *Lakekit* and *Seedkit*

Hey guyz! This is my first Warriors fan-fic so please enjoy! I know some of the Warriors' names are ones actually in the book and I didn't realise this until I started writing the fifth chapter so yeah... Please don't sue me! Lol.

Chapter One; Intruders on ThunderClan Territory

Dawnfire padded through the thorn tunnel, and into the stone hollow, her jaws full of fresh-kill. It was the middle of greenleaf where prey was at its best. Every night cats would go to bed full and not hungry. But in a couple moons, the harsh season of leaf-bare would be upon them, gripping the forest with its icy claws. Dawnfire shuddered, the leaf-bare that Dawnfire had been born in killed her mother and Dawnfire too was almost in the paws of StarClan.

The padding of paws behind her and her apprentices voice brought her out of memories. "Hey Dawnfire! I want to do some battle training. Can we go do some?" she looked behind her to see her apprentice Poppypaw. The young blue-grey she cat was always rushing around and always got in the way.

"Sorry Poppypaw. If you want to do training get Foxclaw or someone to do it. Runningshadow gave me patrols today." Dawnfire replied. "And i'm sure Mossnose wouldn't mind some help."

Poppypaws' ears dropped, "OK Dawnfire." With that the young she-cat turned and padded towards the medicine cats' den. Oh well, I'll take her out for some hunting tomorrow. She thought. She took a vole for herself from the fresh-kill pile and started to eat. When finished, she went to find Frostflower and Salem for a patrol.

"Runningshadow wants us to check the WindClan border. She said they were hunting very close to the border yesterday." Mewed Dawnfire when she found them sharing tongues.

"They better not be," growled Salem. He was a rouge who wandered onto ThunderClan territory last leaf-bare. When a patrol found him and brought him back to camp he showed great ferocity towards being accused for stealing prey. Because of this, Redstar the ThunderClan leader offered him a place among the Clan. Salem

accepted and in return showed warriors the skills he knew. He always showed great courage and strongly stuck to the warrior code. "If I catch a WindClan cat on my territory they'll be trouble!"

"Now Salem, a cat doesn't have to kill a cat to prove he's loyal. In fact, a loyal warrior doesn't pick fights unless necessary." Forstflower mewed politely. She was friends with Salem like Dawnfire, but wasn't always a fan of his way of doing things.

Salem just muttered under his breath and padded ahead of Frostflower.

The patrol reached the border after a while and began to mark the scent markers.

"Dawnfire!" gasped Frostflower. "Come look at this.

Dawnfire padded to where the pretty white she cat was standing. There at her paws, a tail length into ThunderClan territory sat a pile of feathers, blood and bones. She bent her head down and sniffed the prey. "It has WindClan stench all over it!" She hissed. "Look for anything else that shows they have been-" A growl from Salem interrupted her. She looked to see Salem staring over the border. A group of three WindClan cats were coming towards the border. They were quite far away and showed no signs that they saw the ThunderClan cats and carried on.

"Quick, into the bracken! We can see what they do from there." Dawnfire hissed. They sat crouched in the bracken where they could see the WindClan warriors.

"Come on, we just missed a patrol." mewed a black tom once they reached they border. Dawnfire recognised Breezetail from the gatherings. Behind him came a ginger tom and a smaller brown tom who she'd never seen before. She guessed he was an apprentice.

The WindClan patrol stepped over the border, cautiously looking from side to side in case any ThunderClan cats saw them. Dawnfire wanted to leap at them but something held her back.

"Harepaw!" the ginger tom hissed. "You left the bird there." he

flicked with his tail to where the carcass of the crow was lying a few fox-lengths in front of them.

"Sorry." replied the small brown tom, Harepaw.

Breezetail stepped up to him baring his teeth. "Nice one Harepaw. Now a ThunderClan patrol will find it. Now come on. Lets hunt before a ThunderClan patrol does find us!"

Dawnfire rose up from the bracken and beckoned with her tail for her Clanmates to follow her. "Well your luck just ran out." she snarled at Breezepelt.

The three WindClan warriors looked up, startled that they had been watched the whole time. For the first time, she realised that their ribs were showing under their pelts.

"Get out of our territory, now!" Salem growled.

"Make us." challenged Breezepelt.

With a dread, Dawnfire realised that her and her Clanmates weren't going to get out of here without a fight.

***** SHOUT OUT: to Purpleprincess5 , follow her and read her works please :3 *****

Chapter Two; Goldenleafs' Kits

Tails lashing and fur bristling, Dawnfire signaled for her Clanmares to attack.

WindClan, suddenly surprised at the attack tried to flee but were too late!

Dawnfire pounced on top of the ginger tom, her claws raking down his side amd her teeth fastened into his scruff. He tried to shake her of, but by guessing how they looked, they must be very weak.

The ginger warrior bit into her paw. Yowling with pain she let go of him and he fled across the border and back into his own territory.

"Flamepelt!" yelled Harepaw. *Harepaw must be Flamepelts' apprentice.* she thought. He tore free from where he was battling with Frostflower and ran after his mentor.

Breezetail was clawing at Salem. He had Breezetail pinned down on the ground, hardly struggling against the WindClan warrior. He let go and Breeztail fled back for his own territory.

"Come on, lets get back to camp. Frostflower, take that crow you found." Dawnfire called. Her and the patrol padded back through the forest and back to the stone hollow.

Salem ran ahead to warn the Clan about what had happened and by the time they returned the whole Clan was asking questions like "Why would they do this?" and "What is wrong with them?"

Redstar the Clan leader and her father was sitting in the middle of the clearing, his tail wrapped neatly around his paws. Dawnfire couldn't help but notice how calm he seemed.

"Dawnfire, tell me what happened." he asked.Dawnfire explained how they found the crow with WindClan scent all over it and the battle with the WindClan patrol.

"From now on there will be double patrols along that border. Runningshadow get on it." he announced. "Frostflower and Salem, go eat some fresh-kill and rest. Mossnose will be there shortly to see to your wounds. Dawnfire, can I talk to you please?"

"Uh ... sure." she mewed. She followed her father up to the highledge and into his den.

"It's about Goldenleaf." Dawnfires' heart lurched as soon as he mentioned her name. Goldenleaf, was her sister. She had kits only a two sunrises ago. " She has been trying to go out at night ever since she gave birth. You two are unusually close so I thought you might know. Do you know anything?"

"No." she replied, "but I'll keep an eye on her." Dawnfire padded out of her fathers den and headed towards the nursery. She just realised that she hadn't been to see Goldenleafs' kits yet. She stepped into the nursery and was greeted by the warm scent of milk.

"Dawnfire!" Goldenleaf exclaimed. "Have you come to see my kits?"

"Yes Goldenleaf. I'm so sorry that I have not come to see them yet." she mewed to her sister. She bent her head and rubbed her muzzle against Goldenleaf's."What are their names?" she asked.

"This one is Dapplekit," she said sweeping her tail over a tortoiseshell she-kit, " Brightkit," pushing her nose into a she-kit with golden fur, "and this ones .... Stormkit." she said nudging a gray tom towards her.

"Their beautiful," she mewed. "Who fathered them?"

"Um ..... can i trust you with a secret?" she mewed almost half to her self.

"Of course you can! I'm your sister." Dawnfire replied back feeling somewhat confused.

"OK, the cat who fathered my kits," she suddenly stopped and looked as if she wern't going to say anymore but suddenly stood up and moved forwards until she was barley a mouse-lengh in front of Dawnfire. "The cat who fathered my kits is called Stormpelt. He's a

ShadowClan warrior."

Chapter Three; The Gathering

Dawnfire could hardly beleive what she just heard!

Her sisters kits were *half-Clans!* What was her sister thinking? Every cat knows that having half-Clan kits is bad, by a long shot, and if their father ever found out...

Dawnfire didn't want to think what he would do if he found out.

"Please don't tell any cat Dawnfire, please!" she wailed. "I don't know what happened, we met at a gathering when we were aprentices, became closer and then ... we had these three beautiful kits. He doesn't know I've had them yet and I've been trying to get out and tell him but I can't! I even named Stormkit after him." she mewed sadly.

"Tomorrow nights the gathering. I could tell him then." Dawnfire offered. "I doubt Redstar will let you go if your kits are only a few days old."

"Really? You would do that, for me?" she gasped.

"Of course I would." she mewed back trying to sound helpful.

"Oh thank you, and Dawnfire," she asked as Dawnfire slid out the nursery. "remember, don't tell any cat."

***

Dawnfire padded back into the stone hollow with Poppypaw just behind her. It had been a day since she found out the true identities of her sisters kits.

She'd been out training and hunting with her apprentice all day and wanted nothing more than to curl up and fall asleep in the comfort of the warriors den, but she knew she had a gathering to go to later on that night.

She saw Redstar waiting to gather his warriors for the gathering. She ran over and waited with Frostflower, Dovepaw and Salem for the rest of those who were going.

"Who else is going?" asked Poppypaw.

"Greynose, Mossnose, Runningshadow and Ravenpaw." he replied.

"OK" Poppypaw mewed.

Salem, I would like you to take that crow you found yesterday. Be sure to sit at the edge of the clearing and hide it. When I ask you, you bring it out." Redstar told him.

"My pleasure Redstar!" he growled back.

The rest of the cats arrived and they set off for the gathering.

Dawnfire was waiting for her turn to cross the tree bridge when she scented ShadowClan approching. Near the front of the group was Stormpelt a grey tom beside a small grey tabby tom. *His apprentice,* she guessed. Her sister described him to her so she knew what he looked like.

After she crossed the tree bridge she waited for Stormpelt to cross. As soon as she saw him leap off the tree she called out to him. He pricked his ears and his eyes lit up. *I bet he thinks I'm Goldenleaf,* she thought.

Stormpelt told the grey tabby tom behind him to follow the others and he'd be there in a moment. She saw him padding closer to the bush and he called out softly "Goldenleaf?"

"No, I'm Dawnfire, Goldenleafs' sister. I bring news from her though."

He looked worried, obviously guessing Goldenleaf had told her.

"Goldenleaf has had her kits." she mewed calmly. She still didn't trust him and she hoped he would be happy that she had her kits.

"Oh StarClan" he breathed joyfuly. "What do they look like? What

are their names? When were they born?" He obviously couldn't stop the river of questions.

"There are three. One tom, he looks like you and she named him after you. The other two are she-kits and one is golden like her mother and the other is a tortoiseshell. Their names are Brightkit and Dapplekit."

Stormpelt looked ready to burst with pride and ask more questions but before he could do so a yowl sounded from in the clearing. Dawnfire peered out to see the four leaders sitting on the branches of the big oal tree int he centre. Dawnfire mewed a farewell to Stormpelt and padded over to sit beside her apprentice.

The leader of WindClan, Cloudstar spoke first. "WindClan is thriving," he mewed hesitantly. "and we have plenty fresh-kill. We also have a new apprentice, Harepaw." Dawnfire looked to see the young tom sitting up proudly inbetween a group of apprentices. He still bore marks of the little fight the patrols had at the border.

Mistysar the RiverClan leader spoke next saying how the lake and river were full of fish. "I also have a new deputy. Reedwhisker" She meowed flickering her tail to where a black tom was sitting beside the other deputies. "My last deputy died after the dogs at the horseplace got out." Most of the cats bowed their heads in respect. Flashfoot was a respectful deputy. His last answer for everything was a fight.

Redstar moved forward to speak. "I have some good news and some bad news." He started. "First the good news. ThunderClan is blessed with three new kits, Brightkit, Dapplekit and Stormkit. We also have two new apprentices, Hawkpaw and Ravenpaw. Hawkpaw is not here tonight though." He mewed. "Now for the bad news. Two sunrises ago a patrol spotted WindClan hunting very close to the border. At first we thought it was nothing to worry about..." his face darkened as he went on, "but yesterday, another patrol came accross three of your warriors," he turned to Cloudstar, "hunting on my territory."

"You have no proof of that!" spat Cloudstar. "My warriors are *loyal* and I know they would never do that."

"Yes I do. Salem, bring the crow." he mewd calmly. At his word Salem pulled out the half eaten bird from underneath a bush. Dawnfire saw that Breezetails' eyes widened in sock and fear. *Got you!* Dawnfire thought.

"I don't beleive it!" he hissed. "Ashcloud, check it out."

Ashcloud walked up to the crow. As she sniffed it her eyes clouded with disbelief. "Its true Cloudstar." she mewed quietly. "And the cat who's scent is on it most clearly is Harepaw."

Chapter Four; ShadowClans' New Arrival

"What?" Cloudstar glared at Harepaw who by now had now flattened himself on the ground, his head bowed. "Harepaw, I dont beleive this, especially from my own son." Cloudstars' eyes were full of shame. "I'm sorry Redstar. I don't beleive it but Ashclouds' nose never lies." He added with a glance at his deputy. "It wont happen again, will it Harepaw?"

"No Cloudstar. But it wasn't just me," he protested. "Breezetail and Flamepelt were there too. It was Breeztails' idea. Flamepelt went with him and he told me to come too. I didn't want to but he basicly ordered me."

"Are you going to beleive an apprentice Cloudstar?" asked Flamepelt.

Cloudstar just glared at the three cats, his blue eyes burning with anger. "Rainstar do you have anything to report" he asked.

"Nothing accept that we have new kits and a rouge moved into our camp but I guess it can wait." he answered.

"Wait," hissed Mistystar. "Every other leader has had a chance to speak. Lets let Rainstar speak."

"Fine!" grumbled Cloudstar. He didn't look to happy but sat back with his head hunched between his shoulders and he still glared at the three toms.

"Owlfur our queen gave birth tto four kits less than a moon ago. Unfortunately two of them left us to join StarClan." His eyes dulled with grief. "Then two kits were found in our forest. We thought of it as a sign from StarClan. We gave them to Owlfur who looked after them. A while later, a pale golden she-cat with the name Daffodil turned up fratic about her kits. We told her they were fine. She

learned of our way of life and said when her kits were old enough she would leave them with us." Mutters of shock and cofusion rippled through the crowd.

"Why do you bring rouges upon us?" called a warrior near the back.

Rainstar turned to Redstar. "I'm sorry for how I treated you when you brought in Salem. I guess when a cat turns up desperate for a home you can't exactly turn them down." he mummered with a tone of respect.

"Thank you Rainstar." he replied. "Very well. If there is nothing else to discuss then the gathering is over."

The cats split up to join their Clans. As Dawnfire made her way over to her Clan she saw Stormpelt slowly walking up to her.

Can you give Goldenleaf a message from me please?" he asked her.

"Sure. I'm sure she'd be happy to listen." she replied back.

"Thank you Dawnfire. Tell her I say that I'm so happy for her - for us - and that I hope to see her soon. Tell her that after the halff-moon I'll be waiting every night to see her."

Dawnfire didn't like the sound of that but agreeded to pass the message. She noticed that ThunderClan were leaving and she quickly caught up to them. *Hopefuly no cat saw me talking to Stormpelt after all, he is a ShadowClan warrior.*

Her hopes drained when she saw that Frostflower was watching her and amusment glitered in her eyes when she caught up to her. "Now Dawnfire, what has the warrior code told you about seeing cats in other Clans?" she asked mischievously.

"I'm not. He's a friend." she wanted to tell her best friend but she knew she would be braking her promise to her sister.

"From *ShadowClan*!" she said.

"Look, Frostflower. I promise that there is nothing between me and him. I was telling him congratulations on the new kits." she mewed.

"OK, OK! I beleive you Dawnfire, Every cat knows Greynos is willing to have you as his mate and convinced you like him too." she said with laughter dancing in her blue eyes.

Dawnfire felt her skin grow hot under her pelt. It was true though. Every cat in ThunderClan knew Greynose had feelings for her.

She followed Frostflower over the tree bridge and across the moor back to their own territory. All the cats were buzing with exitment when they returned. They obviously knew Redstar would mention WindClan hunting on ThunderClans' territory The cats who didn't go huddled around Redstar and Runningshadow who explained the gathering.

Dawnfire was too tired to listen to their anxious mews and she headed for the warriors den. When she got there she gave herself a quick groom and fell into a deep sleep.

Chapter Five; The Dream and a WindClan Tresspasser

Dawnfire dreamed that night. She was in a lush forest, filled with the mouthwatering scents of prey. As she stopped to hunt she noticed that even though she could scent the prey, she couldn't find any. *Mouse-dung!* She thoguht. What kind of place is this where you can smell fresh-kill but can't find any?

She walked along even farther hoping to find some prey.

"You hunting young one?" a voice sounded behind her.

She whirled around to see a beautiful tortoiseshell she cat with magnificent amber eyes. Dawnfire looked her up and down. She looked fimiliar to her in a way but Dawnfire coudn't quite put her paw on it.

"Who are you? Where am *I*?" she asked.

"Dearest Dawnfire. You are in StarClans hunting grounds. I am your mother." Her eyes had a look of sorrow but it was gone within heartbeats.

"Your ... your my mother?" she asked with sadness welling up inside her. She'd never really remembered her mother because she died of sever blackcough when Dawnfire and Goldenleaf were only a two moons old.

"Yes Dawnfire. I have been watching you an your sister grow up. I'm so proud you Dawnfire. Your the kit I dreamed of."

"What about my sister?" she asked wondering why she hadn't mentioned Goldenleaf yet.

"I was proud of your sister. Until she started meeting that ShadowClan warrior. I saw her meeting up with him every night. It

finally stopped and I thought they were no longer seeing him. Then she moved into the nursery and I realised she was going to have kits. At first I was happy, but it occurred to me that she hadn't been close to any other cat apart from Stormpelt for the past few moons. I was so upset. I never thought that my own daughter would do that."

"I was happy for her too. But then I found out who their father was." Dawnfire mutttered.

"I know. But we must live with it. Anyway, I brought you someone you might want to meet." She flickered her tail and a small kit came out of the bracken. His eyes were a bright emerald green and his white coat with a few small patches of amber and black glistened with starlight. "This is Smallkit. He is your brother. He died after I did. I was there to bring him into StarClan." Her mothers voice was filled with sadness.

Dawnfire was surprised. Redstar always talked about her and her sister but never mentioned anything about her brother. Dawnfire bent down to touch noses with him.

"Your my sister!" he squeaked. "I see you every day! Mother promised me that she would let me meet you." He said with joy.

"Yes, but it doesn't stay night time forever my loves. Smallkit let us be off. Dawnfire needs to wake up." she mewed to the kit.

"Good bye Dawnfire." Smallkit mewed.

Dawnfire woke feeling somewhat happy. She had met her dead mother *and* brother. *I cant wait to tell Goldenleaf. S*he thought. But another thought struck her, if their mother was unhappy at her, Goldenleaf would feel so ashamed. Dawnfire thoguht it was best not to tell her sister. Stormpelt had a message for her anyway.

As Dawnfire bounded across the clearing, she saw Greynose looking at her. She flickered her tail in greeting and carried on towards the nursery.

"Hey Dawnfire. I was wondering if you would want to come hunting

with me?" He asked her.

"Um ... OK. Can you wait a minute though? I'm going to see Goldenleaf." She replied back to him.

He nodded his head as she stepped into the nursery. As usual the scent of milk greeted her and reminded her of Smallkit. "Hi Goldenleaf," she whispered. "How are your kits?"

Goldenleaf looked up from her kits, her eyes sparkling with happiness. "Their going to open their eyes today," she said. As she said it Stormkit mewed and his eyes opened. His eyes were a brilliant blue like the sky.

"Who are you?" he asked Dawnfire in a squeaky voice.

"I'm Dawnfire." she replied.

He stood up on wobbly legs, "Your not my mother, her voice dossn't sound like that. You smell like her though."

"No I'm not. Im your mothers' sister Dawnfire. Your mother is behind you."

Stormkit turned around to see his mother. "Mother!" he exclaimed as he rushed over to her, burrowing his nose into her fur.

"Goldenleaf, Stormpelt has a message for you." she whispered.

Goldenleafs' ears pricked at the sound of her mate. "Go on."

"He said that he is happy for you. He hopes to see you soon." she mewed. "He also said that after the half-moon he'll be waiting every night for you." She added hesitantly.

"Oh, thank you Dawnfire." she replied looking happier than ever before.

Dawnfire was about to add that seeing him now would be a bad idea since she had her kits but realised that Greynose was waiting for her. "I'll see you later and I'll bring you a piece of fresh-kill."

"OK, thank you." she replied as Dawnfire walked out the nursery.

Greynose was waiting by the thorn tunnel for her.They were making their way towards the ShadowClan border when Greynose hissed "Dawnfire, I smell WindClan."

"What?" she stared at Greynose with disbelief. "There can't be, we are on the wrong side of the territory." But as she sniffed the air she noticed that Greynose was right.

"See? I told you so." He scoffed playfully.

Dawnfire cuffed him over the ear with a paw. "Yes you stupid furball. You were right." The scent came stronger and she guessed that if WindClan was on their territory they were moving closer.

"Quick! Up a tree." Greynose hissed already clawing his way up. Dawnfire followed him being careful not to make a noise.

Just as she reached the branch that Greynose was sitting she spotted a small brown figure eating a vole. *Harepaw!* she thought.

"What is he doing here" Greynose asked through clenched teeth.

"This has gone on long enough." She hissed jumping out of the tree her paws landing softly on the grass. She flickered her tail for Greynose to follow but frankly, she didn't care whether he did or not.

"Harepaw." she snarled at him. "What in StarClans name are you doing on my territory?"

Harepaw looked up with fear in his eyes. "I'm sorry. WindClan is starving and there is no prey." he replied his voice shaking.

Greynose walked up to him. "And so soon after the gathering. Hasn't Cloudstar given you in trouble?"

"He has" he said apologetically.

"Right, We are taking you to Redstar," Dawnfire mewed.

"Please no." Harepaw begged.

"No Harepaw. You were caught hunting in another Clans' territory the day after a gathering where you promised not to hunt on our territory." she growled at him. "Greynose take what reains of the vole and we will show Redstar."

The two cats let the WindClan apprentice throught the forest and back to camp.

Redstar was talking to Runningshadow and when he caught sight of Dawnfire with Harepaw his eyes darkened.

He padded over to them and loomed over Harepaw. "Well, what have we got here?"

Chapter Six; Harepaws' Punishment and A Prophecy

Dawnfire explained that they were hunting and came across Harepaw who was eating a vole he caught on ThunderClans' territory.

"Well Harepaw. What were you doing on our territory? You promised Cloudstar it wouldn't happen again."

"I know. I'm sorry Redstar. It really wont happen again. his tim I promise." he mewed.

"A patrol told me this morning Harepaw had been punished severely." shouted Mudpelt. He was on Runningshadows' dawn patrol this morning. "If he is then why is he out of camp?"

"I was out collecting food and bedding for the elders." He replied not bothering to look at Mudpelt.

"So you decided to come onto our land looking for food, eh?" he snarled

"No." he replied to Mudpelts harsh question.

"Then explain the vole our warriors caught you eating."

"Mudpelt, that's enough." hissed Redstar. "Runningshadow, I want you and two other respectiful warriors to take Harepaw back to camp. I would like you to explain the situation to Cloudstar."

Runningshadow dipped her head in agreement. "I'll take Greynose and Dawnfire since they were the ones who found him." she said.

They lead Harepaw out of camp and into the forest towards the WindClan border.

No one talked much on their way to WindClan but as they reached

the border Harepaw muttered out, "Is this really necessary? You don't need to escort me to my *own* camp."

"Yes it is necessary, Cloudstar needs to know that his apprentice who was supposed to be hunting in is own territroy for the elders was not doing as he was told, therefore breaking the warrior code." replied the ThunderClan deputy.

"*Twice!*" Greynose added.

They padded over the border and headed into WindClan territory. As they moved forward through the heather, the scent of WindClan became much stronger. *We're at their camp.* She guessed."

The ThunderClan cats padded down a slope and through a tunnel made up of gorse and thorns. When they entered the camp, she saw it was a large dip in the ground. It looked as if it was sheltered by most of the harsh weather. She also noticed old badger sets and fox holes. She guessed they were used as dens. When she looked around she saw that cats were emerging from the tunnels to see what was happening. She saw one or two cats eaing fresh-kill and she realised that she hadn't eaten this morning, but taking a closer look at the prey it was all stringy and very small and there was no fresh-kil pile in sight.

Cloudstar looked up as he saw the patrol enter. "Runningshadow, what brings you to our camp?" he asked in a friemdly mannor.

"We beleive you are missing an apprentice." She replied and moved to the side reveling Harepaw. "A hunting patrol found him eating prey on our territory very close to the ShadowClan border."

"What?" Cloudstar asked, his eyes burning with the same anger they had last night at the gathering. "Harepaw, is this true?"

Harepaw looked up and replied with a "Yes," so quietly as if he were whispering to himself. "Yes Cloudstar, its true."

"I told you to not leave camp!" hissed the WindClan leader. "I told you, you were spposed to stay in camp for a moon and help Brackenpelt with the elders."

Dawnfire was confused. In the ThunderClan camp Harepaw had said that he ws told to hunt for the elders.

"He told us he was to hunt for the elders and said he had to change their bedding every day until he learned his lesson." Said Greynose voicing her thoughts.

"So, you hunted on another Clans' territory and lied to them. Thank you Runningshadow. We'll deal with Harepaw now." Cloudstar said.

Runningshadow led her patrol out of WindClan camp and back to their own territory.

When they returned to camp Dawnfire saw Frostflower and was about to tell her what had happened but saw she was with Foxclaw. The two cats had grown quite close over the last moon so Dawnfire left them to it.

Greynose padded over and sat down beside her. "Is Foxclaw bothering you again?" He asked with laughter bouncing in his amber eyes.

"Yes," she replied. "He's taking my best friend away." she mewed trying to sound sad, but she knew it had no affect on him. She was happy that Frostflower had chosen a mate but she missed the fun they had as an apprentice.

"Why don't you share some fresh-kill with me?" he asked her.

She nodded and picked out a squirrel from the pile. Greynosed looked at her with amusement. "Why are you taking such a big peice?" he asked her.

"I never ate this morning." she mewed back.

"Well Ok then." he said as he padded over to eat outside the warriors den. Her and Greynose shared tounges after finishing their meal. She saw Frostflower looking at her from across the clearing every so often but she never got up to where she was sitting beside Foxclaw.

"I think I will go to sleep now." she mewed brushing her tail over

Greynoses' flank. "I'll see you in the moning." She padded over to her nest and fell asleep.

She dreamed she was in a forest, it looked familiar in a way but she didn't know why.

"Hello Dawnfire!" A young squeaky voice sounded behind her. She turned around to see small kit looking up at her with sparkling green eyes. "Your back!"

She must be in StarClans hunting grounds. "Yes Smallkit. Where is our mother?"

"She's just coming. Her name is Swiftleaf." he replied.

She felt guilty that she never knew her mothers name and never bothered to ask her.

"Hi Dawnfire. It looks like Smallkit got here first" she mewed softly.

"Mother has a sign for you!" he mewed exitedly and stated jumping up and down.

"Hush Smallkit." she mewed silencing him. "Dawnfire, beware, Danger is coming, but the grey dawn will be your savior."

"What?" Dawnfire mewed as her mother and brother faded away. "Wait! Swiftleaf, come back!"

Her mothers voice echoed around in her head, *"Danger is coming, but the grey dawn will be your savior."*

Chapter Seven; Training

Dawnfire woke up feeling confused. What did Swifleaf mean?

Frostflower was already awake grooming herself. "Good morning Dawnfire. You were muttering in you sleep. Are you all right?" She asked.

"I'm fine, just a bad dream that's all. Do you want to go hunting with me?" She asked her friend.

"Sorry Dawnfire. I'm going on dawn patrol with Mudpelt and Dovepaw along the ShadowClan border." Frostlower replied.

Dawnfire nodded her head and decided to take her apprentice out for some battle training instead. "Poppypaw," she called across the clearing "You ready to go do some battle training?'

Poppypaw jumped up from where she was sitting beside Ravenpaw. "Sure! Can we do some hunting afterwards?"

"I will see."

Poppypaw said goodbye to her friends and followed Dawnfire out of camp. They made their way to the clearing where the apprentices were trained.

Runningshadow was already there training her apprentice Hawkpaw. The two cats stopped when they saw Dawnfire and Poppypaw approaching.

"Dawnfire," Runningshadow mewed. "How are you today?"

"I'm fine, is it all right if me and Poppypaw train here for a bit?" she asked the deputy.

Runningshadow nodded her head and carried on training Hawkpaw. "OK, Poppypaw, I'm going to teach you how to defeat a WindClan warrior. Now, WindClan are fast, but we are stronger.

When a WindClan warrior comes at you, you dodge to the side and knock them over with your paws like this," Dawnfire pushed her apprentice over with her strong forelegs.

Poppypaw stood up, slightly winded. "OK."

"Lets practice. I will be the WindClan warrior and then we'll swap around." Dawnfire lunged at Poppypaw and she tried to knock her over. "Almost, now you be the WindClan warrior"

Poppypaw screeched and hurled herself at Dawnfire but not fast enough. Dawnfire moved out the way and barreled her apprentice over. "That was very good Poppypaw, you were just a bit too slow, now for the second part. When you have knocked them over you quickly jump onto their side. Get yourself onto their backs and it will weigh them down. Make sure that in battle you have a good grip on them. we'll practice it now but claws sheathed."

OK, can you be the WindClan cat now?" she asked.

Dawnfire nodded and lunged for her apprentice again. Poppypaw only managed to knock her over and pounce on her. Dawnfire struggled a little under the apprentices weight.. Poppypaw held on to her but Dawnfire shook her off. When Popppypaw was on the ground, Dawnfire turned and leaped at her. Poppypaw tried to get away but was too slow. Dawnfire landed on top of her with such force she was sure she would squish Poppypaw.

"Thats not fair!" Poppypaw protested.

"Well WindClan isnt always going to let you win are they?" Dawnfire mewed as she got off Poppypaw.

"Runningshadow padded up to Dawnfire with Hawkpaw following her. "Your apprentice is learning well. How about she goes up against Hawkpaw?"

Dawnfire wasn't sure, Hawkpaw became an apprentice a moon before Poppypaw and was almost ready to become a warrior."I guess it will be good practice," Dawnfire mewed.

"OK, Hawkpaw. You are up against Poppypaw. Who ever manages

to keep the other on the ground for five seconds wins something from the fresh-kill pile, without habing to tend to the elders first." Both the apprentices' eyes lit up at the sound of getting fresh-kill without having to see to the elders. "and you don't have to do anything for the rest of the day."

"And what if you loose?" asked Hawkpaw with a teasing glance at Poppypaw.

"You have to go on Sunset patrol with me along the WindClan border." Dawnfire said.

"Right, on you go." Runningshadow said with a flick of the tail.

The apprentices lunged at each other trying desperately to keep the other down. Dawnfire noticed Poppypaws' claws out and shouted "Claws sheathed!" and she slid her claws in again. Poppypaw had Hawkpaw pinned to the ground when he kicked her away with his hind legs. She got up and flung herself at Hawkpaw. But he was quicker, he dodged out the way did the WindClan trick on her. Poppypaw tried to do what Dawnfire had done and shake him off. But instead she just rolled onto her back squishing Hawkpaw underneath her.

"Poppypaw wins!" Declaired Runningshadow. Hawkpaw looked sad to be beaten but still congratulated Poppypaw on her success.

"That was though. You fight like an experianced warrior," Hawkpaw was mewing.

"You were great to Hawkpaw." Poppypaw said rubbing his cheek with her muzzle.

"Come on, lets head back to camp." Dawnfire suggested.

The four cats padded back to camp and Runningshadow said they could hunt. Dawnfire found the scent trail of a vole and followed it. She found the small creature sniffing arund in the leaves. Dawnfire pounced and landed on her prey killing it with a swift bite to the neck.

she padded back to where Runningshadow was waiting with a

starling at her paws. "Your apprentice did well today." she said.

"Thank you Runningshadow. I didn't think that she would beat Hawkpaw."

"I'm thinking of giving him his test soon." she mewed. "He's almost ready to become a warrior."

Just then the two apprentices came out of the bracken, Hawkpaw had a squirrel in his jaws and Poppypaw carried a thrush.

After all four cats were together again, they set off back to camp.

***

Dawnfire led her patrol of Foxclaw, Ravenpaw and Hawkpaw towards the WindClan border.

"Lets hope that this time we dont find warriors on our territory." growled Foxclaw. They two apprentices nodded in agreement but Dawnfire kept thinking of the prophecy. "Danger is coming. The grey dawn will be your saviour."

She couldn't help thinking that maybe WindClan was the danger but Cloudstar seemed friendly enough to ThunderClan.

All throughout the patrol Dawnfire couldn't stop thinking about the prophecy. Ravenpaw noticed something was up with her and padded beside her. He brushed his tail down her flank and mum merged "Dawnfire, I know something's up. I cam see it. What's wrong?"

"Nothing Ravenpaw, everything's fine."

He looked at her doubt filling his eyes. "No Dawnfire. You can't hide it. I know. You can tell me, I can keep a secret."

"Foxclaw," she shouted."me and Ravenpaw are going to do a spot of hunting."

Foxclaw looked a bit unsure but nodded his head. "The borders are pretty much marked anyway and I can't say no to a little prey."

Dawnfire sent a silent prayer to StarClan thanking that Foxclaw let them go. Dawnfire let Ravenpaw into the bracken. She let them through the forest and stopped at the roots of the Sky Oak. She started to climb and beackond with her tail for Ravenpaw to follow.

"Why up the Sky Oak?" Ravenpaw asked.

"Because, if a cat comes then we will see." She mewed still climbing.

"But I heard that an apprentice died after falling out the Sky Oak." He mowed his voice no trembling with fear.

"OK, we will stop at this branch." Dawnfire mewed climbing onto the nearest branch. It was thick so the cats could sit on it without falling but they still needed to be careful. She waited for Ravenpaw to climb up and sit infront of her and she started to explain. "I had this dream, I was in StarClans' territory and the smell of fresh-kill was overwhelming. I tried to hunt but I couldn't find any prey. I met my mother Swiftleaf and she said she was proud of me and my sister." Dawnfire added not wanting to give away her sisters' kits half-Clan heritage. "I then met Smallkit, he was my brother but he died shortly after my mother did. He was happy to see me, then my dream ended."

"Why is that troubling you?" He asked.

"That's not what's troubling me. The next night I was in StarClans' territory again. Swiftleaf and Smallkit appeared again and Swiftleaf gave me a prophecy. It said 'danger is coming but the grey dawn will be your saviour."

Chapter Eight; Ravenpaws' Gift and Frostflowers' Secret

Ravenpaws' eyes widened filling with a mixture of shock, confusion and fear. "Dangers is coming, but the grey dawn will be your saviour..." He muttered half to himself.

"But what does it mean? I just don't know." Dawnfire mewed.

"Wait! Dawnfire I think I got it! Danger is coming, but the grey dawn will be your saviour, dawn means you Dawnfire and the grey must mean Greynose. It's obvious Dawnfire, You and Greynose are the only grey and dawn in the Clan." Ravenpaw exclaimed.

He was right, but how would her and Greynose save the Clan? But how did Ravenpaw, and ordinary apprentice know?"

"Ravenpaw, how did you figure this out?" Dawnfire asked him.

"I, I think I have a gift, a gift from StarClan." He muttered.

"What? What kind of gift?" She asked him, suddenly interested in the young toms thoughts.

"I can tell how cats are feeling and I can kind of read their minds. Cats minds are usually clouded and hard to read, but I can read enough to know something is bothering them.." He replied.

Dawnfire couldn't believe what she heard. Ravenpaw had a gift. Then she remembered they were supposed to be hunting and it was after nightfall. "Come on Ravenpaw, its getting dark, lets hunt, and don't tell any cat. I don't want them to panic."

"Don't worry Dawnfire, you have my word." He looked up at the star that were beginning to appear. "I swear by StarClan." He nodded and leap down onto lower branches until he was low enough to jump the rest of the way. Dawnfire did the same and

when she reached him they padded into the undergrowth.

Dawnfire and Ravenpaw padded into the clearing each carrying a mouse and Dawnfire also had a blackbird. She saw Greynose sitting beside the warriors den. He looked up and saw her and waved his tail in greeting. "Ravenpaw, should I tell Greynose about the prophecy?" She whispered to the apprentice.

"I'm not sure, maybe. But I'd leave it and see if StarClan tell you. I mean, you two could be the grey dawn but I'm just guessing." He replied to her.

She just nodded and put her catch on the fresh-kill pile. Dawn fire padded over to Greynose and touched her nose to his. Every time she was with him, she had this feeling inside that she couldn't quite explain. He made her happy and she liked it.

"Hello Dawnfire. I wondered where you'd got to." He mewed with a look in his eyes that she had never seen in him before.

"I was on patrol and decided to hunt for a bit." She replied to him. She spotted Frostflower on the other side of the clearing beside Foxclaw. She noticed that they had their tails intertwined. They touched noses and Foxclaw went over to see Mudpelt. Dawnfire said goodbye to Greynose and padded over to her friend.

"Hey Dawnfire, how are you?" Frostflower asked her.

"I'm fine. But I need to talk to you about something." Dawnfire replied.

"Sure, what is it?"

"Well, whenever I'm around Greynose ... I have this feeling inside me. I'm not sure what it is but it makes me feel happy. And just now he was looking at me with something in his eyes that I'd never seen in his eyes before." Dawnfire said.

Frostflowers' eyes lit up as she mewed. "Dawnfire, it's love. The feeling you have inside you is love, Dawnfire. He loves you and you have the same feelings for him. It's obvious, pretty much the whole Clan can see it. Foxclaw and I are the same,"

Love. Dawnfire had never thought of that. But then it hit her, of course it's love, she'd seen Goldenleaf have the same look in her eyes over her kits.

"Come on, lets go to the warriors den. It's getting late." Mewed Frostlower.

That night, Dawnfire had a good sleep. No StarClan warriors visited her in her dreams.

She woke up beside Frostflower and padded out of her nest. Runningshadow was organising patrols for the day with Redstar.

Frostflower padded out the warriors den with a sad look on her face.

"Hey Frostflower, what's up?" Dawnfire asked her.

"Well, I found out something last night. But I won't say here, meet me at the Sky Oak." Frostflower replied to her.

Dawnfire nodded her head in agreement and told Runningshadow that they were going hunting. Runningshadow just nodded and said that she can't turn down fresh-kill. Frostflower had already left so Dawnfire followed her scent trail all the way to Sky Oak and found her sitting in a branch high up in the tree. Her and Frostflower used to always go up the tree when they had secrets to tell the other. They did it so often that they could climb the tree so easily.

"I had a dream last night. My father Lionblaze came to me and told me something I didn't know. My mother isn't Runningshadow, it's Whiteflower from RiverClan.

Chapter Nine; Redstars Possible Backdown

"What?" Dawnfire stared at her friend in disbelief. "That can't be true!"

"I'm sorry Dawnfire, its true. I'm half RiverClan." Frostflower mewed.

Dawnfire couldn't find herself to believe her. Five cats all in one clan had a secret or power. Herself, Frostflower, her sister, Ravenpaw and Greynose.

"I'm sorry Dawnfire, but please, don't tell anyone. I want them all to still think that Runningshadow is my mother." Frostflower begged.

Dawnfire was the only one who knew all these cats secrets. "All right, I'll keep it safe."

"Promise?"

"Promise."

They both left the tree and hunted. When they returned to camp they saw Runningshadow give the yowl for a meeting. *Just in time, but why isn't Redstar calling the meeting?* Dawnfire thought.

"All right," shouted Runningshadow. "Now can I have everyones attention. You may notice that Redstar isn't calling the meeting. That is because he is ill."

Shocked mutters went around the camp as soon as Runningshadow gave the news.

"Mossnose is tending to him, but I want no one going in there in case it gets worse. Mossnose beleives he has whitecough so we don't want it to spread. You all know who easily whitecough can turn into greencough." Runningshadow mewed with a glance at

Dawnfire. She must be remembering the leaf-bare when her mother and brother died.

"But, we must continue Clan life. Foxclaw, I would like you to take an evening patrol along the WindClan border, take Ravenpaw and Greynose with you and salem, could you lead a patrol along the ShadowClan border, take Mudpelt and Dovepaw. Frostflower is it all right if he takes her?" Runningshadow asked.

"Yes it is." Frostflower replied.

"OK, then. Patrols, leave soon and try do a spot of hunting after." Runningshadwo ordered. The cats who were going on patrol went to get a quick rest and something to eat. Dawnfire didn't notice the deputy coming up behind her. "Dawnfire, can I talk to you about something?"

"Yeah, sure," Dawnfire wondered what was up while she followed Runningshadow up the highledge. *I hope she didn't hear about Frostflower*. Dawnfires heart started to beat faster and she felt fear welling up inside her for her friend.

"I was talking to your father." Dawnfire started to calm down. "He said he only has two lifes left." That made Dawnfire tremble with faer again. "But, he told me he wants to back down as leader." Runningshadow mewed looking at her paws.

"What, like stop being leader?" Asked Dawnfire.

"Y - yes. I don't know what to say to him but after all, the leaders word is the Warrior Code." The deputy replied.

That was true, but why would he want to give up being leader? Being leader must be great, but then again, he has been leader since before Dawnfire was born and thats over three years of leadership.

"What are you going to do?" Dawnfire asked.

"If he does give up leadership, I want you to help pick out a deputy for me. You knoow some of the warriors better then I do," Runningshadow replied

"But the new leader must always pick out the deputy him or herself!" Dawnfire exclaimed.

"I know I'm sorry Dawnfire. Forget I ever asked." The deputy mewed and padded of to Redstars' den.

Dawnfire now felt bad but it was true, the leader must beleive in what is right and pick out a deputy by themselves. She padded over to where Greynose was sitting and sat down beside him. Just like normal she had that feeling again that was only caused being near him. She wished he wasn't going on patrol.

Just as if he read her thought he muttered, "I wish I could stay here with you rather than go out on patrol.

"Me too." She replied without thinking.

"Wait, Foxclaw is leading the patrol. Maybe Frostflower can take my place." Greynose mewed and he jumped up and ran over to where Foxclaw was sitting with Frostfllower. She noticed Frostflowers' eyes light up and Foxclaw nodded his eyes in agreement. Dawnfires heart lept with joy! Frostflower and Foxclaw coulde spen sometime together and her and Greynose could have time together. She got even more hapier when she realised that her and Greynose would be the only warriors in camp too!

Greynose went over to the fresh-kill pile and came back with a rabbit in his jaws. He placed it down infront of her and seated himself beside her and they shared the rabbit. She noticed Frostflower and Foxclaw go out if camp, with their tails interwined. Ravenpaw padded along infront of them and they vanished through the thorn tunnel.

When they finished the rabbit they padded into the warriors den and shared tounges. Dawnfire felt happy, with a full stomach and she was here, talking to her friend, her best friend. Her ... mate?

Greynose decided to go to sleep. Dawnfire was half expecting him to go to his own nest but he stayed beside her. Dawnfire put her head on her paws and fell asleep.

Chapter Ten; The Dreams

***** This isnt an offical chapter, just the dreams of the chosen cats *****

A golden tom walked through the heather. The lush scents of rabbit were all around him. He must be dreaming, as the scent of rabbit is not this strong. In fact, he can't find any prey for his Clan. They were starved.

He carried on through the heather and arrived at the shore of the lake and he spotted a small ginger and white tom.

"Gorsepaw!" He shouted. Gorsepaw turned around and saw him.

"Kestrelwing, w- what are you doing here? I mean, in my dream?" Gorsepaw stammered.

"I'm not in your dream, your in mine!" Kestrelwing mewed back a little surprised.

"No your in a dream together." A voice sounded close.

Kestrelwing arched his back and hissed at the new comer although, he was nowhere to be seen. Gorsepaws' fur bristled and the two toms stared into the bush where the voice had come from.

A tabby tom raaised himself from inside the bush. "I am Onestar. I was leader many seasons ago." The tom mewed.

Kesrelwing looked at the tom who apparently seemed too be Onestar. He heard about Onestar before, he was the great Firestars friend until he betrayed him. "What are you doing here?" Kesrelwing asked.

"I have a message for you. The kestral flies with the wind and the gorse protects it. But together they can save those around them

from the danger.." Onestar replied.

Gorsepaw looked at the leader. "What in StarClans name does that mean?" The apprentice asked sounding Kesrelwings thoughts.

Onestar looked calmy at them both. "Tomorrow night, when the moon is a cresent you two will visit the Moonpool. There will be two from every other Clan so do not be alarmed. At the Moonpool you will find the answer to your questions."

Gorsepaw looked at Onestar as he vanished. "Will we trust him?"

"It sounds like a message from StarClan. I will take you out hunting tomorrow night and we will leave for the Moonpool."

Gorsepaw nodded hi head in agreement. "But what will we tell Ashcloud? After all, she is my mentor."

"I don't know, I'll think of something but Gorsepaw. You must tell no one. Got it?"

"Got it."

Kestrelwing padded back the wy he came and woke up to find himself in the burrow that is the warriors den.

A small blue-grey she-cat stepped out the shadows. She was dreaming. Without thinking her paws carried her to the shore of the lake. There she sat watching the reflection of the almost cresent moon ripple across the water0. She heard the bushes behind her rustle and she turned around to see a grey tom emerge from the bushes.

"Huh, thats weird." He mewed looking at her. "I didn't think you would be in my dream Bluepaw."

Bluepaw felt the same way. "Maybe our dreams cross." She mewed to him.

"Or maybe StarClan is going to send you a sign." A deep voice

growled making Blupaw jump. She looked and saw a powerful white tom with black paws jump out a tree.

"Blackstar." The grey tom beside her mewed dipping his head in respect. So this was Blackstar. Bluepaw had heard a lot about him.

"Greetings Strompelt and Bluepaw. I come from StarClan and I am here to send you a message."

"For both of us?" Strompelt asked the former ShadowClan leader.

"Yes for both of you!" He growled. "Why would you both be here if it was only for you?" He hissed at him. "Now then. The storm covers the blue sky, protecting those in the shadows from the danger."

"What does it mean?" Bluepaw asked him.

"I can't tell you that but tomorrow night when the moon is a cresent you two must go to the Moonpool. You will find all your answers there."

Blupaw and Strompelt looked at eachother in confusion but before either of them could ask why, Blackstar vanished and Bluepaw woke up. She stood up and groomed herself. She saw Stormpelt come out of the warriors den with confusion plastered over his face. What did Blackstar mean? She rused over to Stormpelt.

"Did you have the same dream I did?" He asked her. She nodded her head.

"We must go to the Moonpool tonight, but if we go lets not tell anyone." She whispered in his ear. He just nodded and walked off.

Bluepaw looked around her camp. If StarClan said there was danger, then she would do anything to protect her Clan.

_____

A pretty silver tabby stepped out of the reeds. It was night time and the smell of fresh-kill was tempting. But this was a dream. She couldn't hunt for her Clan in her dream. She padded towards the lake edge and looked out across the shining water. It was almost a

cresent moon, and soon it would be the half moon where she would go to the Moonpool to share tounges with StarClan.

"Hello Rippletail." A voices sounded behind her. Rippletail whipped around to see a golden tabby she-cat with spots aswell as stripes. It was unusual for a cat to have spots and stripes. Then she recognised the she-cat. It was Leopardstar. She had come to Rippletail in dreams before to tell her where the catnip was when Mistystar had greencough.

"Leopardstar." Rippletail mewed and dipped her head in greeting. "How are you?"

"I am fine, but where is Silverpebble?" Leopardstar asked.

"Silverpebble? Wha-" Rippletail was cut off by a cat crashing through the reeds. She saw a flash of silver and saw Silverpebble crash into the lake.

"There she is." Leopardstar mewed with amusment. "Greetings Silverpebble." She said to her. Silverpebble stood up and shook the water off her fur and came out of the lake. She stopped dead when she saw Leopardstar and Rippletail.

"Um, hi!" Silverpebble mewed looking confused. "Oh, um sorry Rippletail. Did I interupt a dream?"

Rippletail was about to reply but Leopardstar beat her to it, "No Silverpebble. In fact we were waiting for you."

"For me? Why?" She mewed.

"I have a message from StarClan for you both. The ripple gives the river its life, shining silver in the night and day to protect those who live around the water from danger." Leopardstar mewed.

It didn't strike Rippletail as much because she was used to omens and signs, but Leopardstar mentioned danger. What kind of danger though?

"What do you mean?" Silverpebble asked the leader.

"Thats for you to find out tomorrow night at the Moonpool." Leopardstar replied calmly to Silverpebbles question. "There are two from every Clan that you will meet tomorrow night. Rippletail," she mewed turning to the medicine cat. "you go to the Moonpool every half-moon. We at least picked one medicine cat for the prophecy. I do not know who the other leaders picked but I offered to pick you. You can show them the way to the Moonpoll and tell them what to do. You must find strength and courage to help them." And with that Leopardstar dissapeared.

"Silverpebble, tomorrow when I come and get you we will say we are going to collect herbs. But we will go to the Moonpool."

"Why don't you say you had a sign and say you need to go to the Moonpool to find out more. And say that you will bring me just for protection and also to help carry herbs for on the way home." Silverpebble suggested. That was a good idea.

"OK, we'll go with your idea." Rippletail mewed. The two cats sat there until they woke up.

Rippletail sat up in her nest. What is now in store for the four Clans?"

Chapter Eleven; Journey To The Moonpool

Dawnfire dreamed again that night. She was in her territory. She was getting close to the lake when she smelled a familiar scent. "Greynose!" She mewed rushing to where he was sitting.

"Hey Dawnfire! Fancy seeing you in my dream." He mewed his eyes filling with joy.

"Your dream? This is my dream." Dawnfire replied to him.

"You are confused aren't you?" A voice sounded in the bracken behind them. A flame coloured tom with brilliant emerald green eyes. He looked familiar in a way, she'd never met him, but she had heard about him. It was Firestar!

"I am Firestar. Once ThunderClan leader. I am here with a mesage from StarClan." Firestar mewed.

Not another prophecy! Dawnfire thought. She was already weighd down by secrets and prophecies.

"Dawnfire, you already know the grey dawn don't you?" Firestar asked her.

She nodded her head.

"Ravenpaw was right. You and Greynose are the grey dawn."

Greynose looked at her confused. "I'm the what?"

"My mother Swiftleaf came to me in a dream a few nights ago. She said that danger is coming and the grey dawn will be your saviour. I didn't know what it meant but when I was on a patrol with Ravenpaw he knew something was up. I told him and he said he figured it out. That me and you were the grey dawn. I asked him how he knew and he said that he had a gift from StarClan, a gift

that helps him understand cats troubles and helps them to understand." Dawnfire told him.

"That he does." Firestar mewed.

"I was going to tell you but Ravenpaw said that I should wait and see if StarClan tell me anything. So I did but nothing came. I'm sorry Greynose, you are part of a prophecy you never even knew of."

Greynose still looked confused but it died away and was replaced with understanding. "I forgive you Dawnfire." He mewed to her rubbing his muzzle against hers.

"You did the right thing Dawnfire." Firestar mewed. "I have another message for you both. The grey dawn will rise with the kestrel who hunts among the gorse, the silver river that ripples and the blue sky with the storm behing it to lead and protect those around the water from the danger."

Greynose and Dawnfires' eyes widened in shock. Danger was coming, but what was it?

"What does it mean?" Asked Greynose.

Firestar carried on. "Tomorrow night, you will travel to the Moonpool, there all your questions will be answered. Two other cats from each Clan will be there. You two are the leaders for this prophecy. Especially you Dawnfire. Myself, Blackstar, Onestar and Leopardstar all chose you. We are counting on you." With that Firestar faded away and Dawnfire turned to Greynose. They looked into each others eyes until they finaly awoke.

Greynose who was beside her got up and shook himself. "What do we do Dawnfire?" He asked.

"I don't know. I suppose we will just go to the Moonpool and find out.

Dawnfire left the camp with Greynose at her heels. It was just after sunhigh and they were leaving to go the Moonpool.

They stopped to quickly hunt to keep up their energy. They caught a mouse each and sat down to eat.

"What do you think willl happen? I've never been to the Moonpool before." Mewed Greynose in between bites.

"I don't know, but I think I know where it is." Dawnfire replied giving him a reasuring lick on the ear.

They carried on untill they reached the border. "I think the Moonpoll is up the stream" Dawnfire mewed remembering when she came with Mossnose to collect herbs. She had told Dawnfire that up the stream was the Moonpool where she would go every half-moon along with the other medicine cats. "Firestar said that others will be here too. Lets wait a while."

It wasn't long before they spotted two figures bounding across the moor. Within moments the two cats were at the stream, trying to catch their breath. They smelled of WindClan and she recognised Kestrelwing.

"Hey Kestrelwing" She mewed. "Hows the prey running in WindClan?"

"Fine, are- are you two here for a prophecy? I was told that I would meet other cats."

"Yeah, you are too." Dawnfire mewed. "Me and Greynose are the ones from ThunderClan."

"Myself and Gorsepaw are from WindClan." He mewed introducing the small tom beside him.

Just then the scent of RiverClan hit her and she turned to see two silvery shapes emerging from the near by bushes. "Thank StarClan we hadn't gone fish brained!" Breathed one of them. "Sorry, I'm Rippletail the RiverClan medicine cat and this is Silverpebble."

Silverpebble. She was Frostflowers sister! She looked a lot like Frosrtflower. Same blue eyes, same coat texture, same bosy shape. Basicly a silver tabby version of her best friend.

"Hello." Mewed Kesrelwing greeting the newcomers."Your the medicine cat?"

"Yeah." Rippletail replied to him. "Leopardstar said that she chose me to help you to the Moonpool and help you with prophecys."

"What prophecy did she give you?" Greynose asked.

"Leopardstar said that '*the ripple gives the river its life, shining silver in night and day to protects those around the water fro danger.*'" Rippletail replied.

"Onestar told us that '*the kestrel flies wiith the wind and the gorse protects it. But together they can help save those around them.*"' Kestrelwing mewed.

A ShadowClan scent filled the air as two ShadowClan cats pushed there way through the bracken and sat themelves beside Dawnfire and Greynose. Dawnfire recognised Stormpelt but she didn't know the small blue-grey she-cat beside him.

"Finaly!" Hissed Kestrelwing.

"We had to cross ThunderClan territory." Stormpelt hissed back. "We almost got caught by a patrol."

"Don't worry. We would never fight cats if you or ourselves were outnumbered." Dawnfire mewed to him.

"Come on. We are wastin moonlight and plus, a patrol from our camp will be leaving soon." Greynose mewed.

The cats padded up the slope that led to the Moonpool wiith Rippletail in the lead. It started to get dark as the sun vanished. Greynose pressed himslef closer to her as they climbed higher. After a while the sound of rushing water hit Dawnfires' ears. Rippletail stopped the group when they came to some bushed blocking the path. The sound of water was a lot clearer now.

"Behind these bushes llies the Moonpool. The path is very narrow so we all have to go through one by one. Silverpebble, you will go first. Followed by Kestrelwing and so on." Rippletail mewed. She

guided the cats through the bushes one by one until they were all in. Dawnfire opened her mouth in awe. It was beautiful with the pool in the centre of a shallow hollow. A small waterfall was flowing into the pool causing the sound of rushing water to echo around the hollow. The pool itself looked as if all the stars had fallen out of the sky and into the pool. They followed a path down and it seemed to have paw marks ingraved in the stone by ancient cats. Dawnfire let her paws slp into the marks and she found it was easier to get down.

"Its not like I imagined." Dawnfire breathed.

"Its beautiful." Silverpebble mewed in exitment.

"It is isn't it?" Rippletail said. She wasn't as awestruck as the rest of them but she came here every half-moon. "OK, now you go and find a spot around the pool. When you are all seated I will explain what to do next."

Once all the cats were on a spot Ripletail started explaining what to do again. "Now, take a drink from the pool and try go to sleep. StarClan will do the rest,"

Dawnfire took a drink from the Moonpool. It was icy cold and it sent shivers down her spine and it tasted like starlight. She put her head on her paws and drifted into sleep.

When she opened her eyes she wasn't beside the Moonpool anymore. She was in the middle of a starlit clearing. In front of her sat four cats, one of wich was Firestar.

Around here was the other seven cats, some of them were still asleep. Or awake in the real world. Silverpebble and Gorsepaw were already up, and she noticed Greynose beside her beginning to stir. Rippletail was the last cat to get up. Once they were all up Firestar moved forwards and began addressing the cats.

"Greetings." He meowed. "You should all know by now why you are all here. You are all part of a prophecy to save your Clans from the danger. I have here with me Leopardstar, Blackstar and Onestar. My name is Firestar if you didn't already know." He said pionting his

tail to the cats behind him.

Blackstar stood up and stared talking. "This will be a dangerous task so you need to listen and follow the instuctions that we give you." Hesignaled with his tail to Onestar who poke next.

"Dawnfire, you were the first chosen cat. You were given a prophecy just after the gathering. We have all agreed that you will be the leader. You will decide what to do for the cats around you for the next half moon or so." Onestar said.

Dawnfire was the chosen cat! The one to lead them through whatever danger is coming

"Because this is a dangerous task, you will all be granted one extra life. This life will be granted to you by someone close to you who is in StarClan." Leopardstar added from where she was sitting.

An extra life! If they were giving extra lives to the cats, it must be really dangerous.

Just then, cats came out of the bushes and padded over to the eight cats and began granting them their extra lives. Dawnfire noticed her mother with Smallkit at her heels padding toward her.

"I'm so proud of you Dawnfire." She whispered. "I give you this extra life, so you can fulfill this mission." A bolt of energy shot through Danwnfire and when it left it was replaced by a burning sensation that left Dawnfire trembling.

"Now Dawnfire," her mothers meow was stern. "You must be alert. The danger is bigger that anything you have ever faced bfore. It is big creatures that are bigger than Twolegs. There are two different types, but one threatens to come to the Clans' territories. It will mainly stick by the river but we thought that one Clan shouldn't be left alone to fight this. You must be brave." With that Swiftleaf padded away. Smallkit looked up at her, his big green eyes scared.

"I have seen them Dawnfire. They are huge. Some are brown and some are black. No cat in StarClan has ever seen them before." Smallkit mewed trembling.

"Smallkit!" Swiftleaf snapped. He followed their mother and disapeared into the bracken.

Once all the StarClan warriors had left Firestar stood up and started speaking again. "When you wake up, you will not be at the Moonpool anymore, but you will be behind horseplace. When you all wake up, you must follow the river. Dawnfire, you make sure they follow your instructions. After roughly two to three daays travel, you will come across a cave. In there is what lies. We have sent messages to your leaders so you do not need to worry. If you do not loose your extra life we might take it away, but if we see that you have contributed enough to the mission, we might let you keep it. Now, you must go. You have a long way to go." With that Firestar vanished and Dawnfire plumeted into blackness.

She woke up next to Greynose and the smell of horses hit her nose. Firestar just saved them a whole days travel! She saw the other cats around her begining to stir. Once they were all up they must follow the river. There was no turning back now. She must lead these cats through the unknown and fight what ever StarClan intended them to fight. This was going to be hard.

Chapter Twelve; The Journey Begins

"Right," Dawnfire mewed as the cats around her woke. "we must find food and get going straight away. But be careful hunting because we are near RiverClan and WindClan."

"What about the apprentices?" Stormpelt asked as cats started to look for food.

"They will stay with the warriors that they came with." Dawnfire replied. Stormpelt just nodded his head and padded over to Kestrelwing to tell him.

Dawnfire padded off to hunt but she stayed well away from the border. She was walking past the entrance to the barn when the strong scent of mice flooded her senses. She looked through the hole at the bottom of the door and squeezed through the hole. The smell of mouse was overpowering. She decided to tell the others about this. She came out of the barn and padded back to where the others were. She noticed that Silverpebble tried to fish as her paws were wet.

"Are all of us here? What did you all catch?" Dawnfire asked the cats. They all nodded showing they were here but only one peice of prey sat in the clearing.

"All the prey is in the territories." Stormpelt mewed looking at the chuffinch.

"Well its just aswell I went into the barn, the smell of mice is strong so I'm guessing there are loads." Dawnfire mewed nodding her head in the direction of the barn.

"I'll have the bird." Rippletail mewed from where she was sitting beside Silverpebble. "Because I'm a medicine cat, I don't have the same skills as the rest of you, and there is no point wasting a

perfectly good peice of prey."

That was true. "OK." Dawnfire mewed to her.

All the cats followed her as she led the way to the barn. Once they had all squeezed through the door Dawnfire started explaining what to do. "OK, I don't know how big the mice are so have one, and if that's not enough have two, don't fill your self up too much as we can stop for prey later. I do not want to spend to long here. When you are done wait at the door we just came in. When we are all there we shall set off. everyone got it?" The cats nodded their heads in agreement. "OK, then off-"

Dawnfire was interrupted by a hiss at the barn door. A cats head was poking through the hole. "Look what the cat dragged in!" A rusty voice came from the cat. He pushed himself through the hole and stood in front of the Clan cats. He was l small tabby with amber eyes. He didn't look much older than Redstar. "I'm sorry, what are you doing in ma barn?" He asked. He didn't sound hostile but she clearly guessed that he didn't like the cats' presence.

"Look we are sorry, but we are about to go on a journey and we need food. Is it allright if we hunt for a bit?" Dawnfire asked the old tom.

"Oh, go ahead. I'm out a lot myslef, so you might aswell have some and plus, I got me loads of mice anyway. Along with the food that my housefolk give to me. I never go hungry. My name is Tiger." The tom replied, loosing all his hostileness

"He's a kittypet?" Gorsepaw whispered in her ear.

Tiger seemed to of heard him and looked into Gorsepaws' eyes. "A what?"

"A kittypet." Kestrelwing mewed defending his Clanmate.

"And what on earth is a kittypet?" Tiger mewed sounding comfused.

"A cat who lives with Twolegs, I mean housefolk. Do you live with them?" Dawnfire said before Kestrelwing could reply.

"Aye, I do. But I mostly live in the barn. You see, we moved from the city. We had to move because my housefolk, or uh ... Twolegs got them some horses. As soon as I noticed mice in here, I claimed this place for myself. My house- I mean Twolegs come in here every day for hay for them horses but still leave me alone. I go in every now and then to see them, especially their kids. They love me." Tiger mewed.

"What is a city?" Asked Bluepaw.

"A city young one is where lots of Twolegs live. There are usualy lots of cats and dogs and othe small creatures that live with Twolegs. My owner had a mouse as a pet once, and a lizard. There are alway cars driving around and places for Twolegs to go and work and get new stuff and places for them to get my food. They call that shopping" Mewed Tiger.

"A mouse as a pet!" Gorsepaw hissed. "Mice are for food!"

"Not for Twolegs their not. Some Twolegs even have rats as pets." Tiger mewed in amusement.

"And what is a car, and a lizard?" Bluepaw asked again. She certainly had a lot of questions on her mind.

"You don't know what a car is? Goodness, who are you all, coming in here and not knowing what a city is or a car." He mewed in disbeleif and sympathy.

"We have never lived with housefolk Tiger. We do not know all these things, we live in the wild around the lake." Dawnfire mewed back politely.

"Oh, I see."

"Now, is it all right if we hunt now? We really have to get going soon." Silverpebble asked the old tom, walking lightly to stand beside Dawnfire.

"Aye sur, but first ... may I have your names." Tiger asked.

Dawnfire nodded and introduced each cat. "My name is Dawnfire.

This is Silverpebble, Gorsepaw, Kestrelwing, Rippletail who is a medicne cat. Greynose, Bluepaw and Stormpelt."

"Such weird and wonderful names, but thank you young Dawnfire. On ya go and hunt."

The cats padded off in all directions looking for mice. Greynose came up to her with two mice dangleing from his jaws.

"Already?" Dawnfire asked him.

"I caught one just before Tiger came in. And I caught one just now. Do you want one?" Greynose mewed.

"Sure, but I'll catch the next ones."

Greynose just nodded and they sat down beside eachother to share the mice. Once they had finished Dawnfire went off to find two more. She listened for the noise of tiny creatures and soon found a mouse nibbling on a piece of straw. She pounced on it and killed it with a swift bite to the neck. She soon found another mouse and killed it. With her mice she went bck to Greynose and sat beside him. "Here you go." She mewed pushing the mouse toward him. He nodded is head in thanks. By the look on his face, is was in deep concentration.

"Dawnfire, what are we gong to do if one of us dies?" He mewed after taking a bite.

She had never thought about that. "Don't worry Greynose, I'm sure everything with be fine." She mewed entwining her tail with his. Being around him made her feel safer and more open.

"But what if you die? Where will we be then/ Where will *I* be?" Greynose wailed to her.

She couldn't find the words to answer that. It hurt her too much to think about that.

"I love you Dawnfire. " He whispered in her ear.

"I love you too." She mewed back to him.

They continued to eat their mice when Tiger came up to them. "Some cat mentioned a prophecy. What is really going on here?"

Dawnfire was hoping that they wouldn't have to explain themselves but it looked as if she had too. But she decided to shorten it down. "We were told that some creatures were at the river but about two days from here. Aparently one has come close and might move in near us. Us eight cats were chosen to fight off the creature by chasing it away or killing it I guess."

Tigers eyes widened. "I know those creatures. What are they called again? Oh yes bears. They go to the river every year for the salmon run, or some call it the salmon leap. Its were salmon from the sea swim back up the rivers they were born in to mate. Most of the adut fish die and so the bears eat the dead fish and sometimes catch live ones too. I went there once. It was remarkable. Loads of fish! The cats dream! Even Twolegs go to fish but special bridges have been built over the river with gates at the end so the bears cant get them"

"I guess even bears hate Twolegs!" Greynos joked.

"So wait! Bears and Twolegs have been feeding of fish all leaf-fall while we sit around the lake with no food?" Dawnfire asked.

"Yep." Tiger mewed. Just then Silverpebble came running up to her.

"Dawnfire! It will be sunhigh soon."

"OK. Thank you Silverpebble." Dawnfire mewed. When she reached the door most of the cats were already waiting. Only Kestrelwing, Bluepaw and Gorsepaw were still to come. She hoped that they would come and soon enough the three cats came crashing down from they hay loft. "OK, now that we are all here, Tiger has just told me some useful information on what we need to look for..." She explained the salmon run to the rest of the cats and she noticed Silverpebble and Rippletails' eyes lighten at the sound of fish. "Thank you Tiger. We are greatful that you shared your prey with us. I'm sure if we have time on the way home we could stop here."

"I would like that." Tiger mewed dipping his head at her. "Now, I think I can remember all your names. Theres Dawnfire, Greynose

Silverpebble, uh ... Rippletail is it? Kestrelwing Bluepaw Gorsepaw and Stormpelt. Did I get them right?"

Dawnfire nodded her head. She led the way out through the gap and waited for the others to follow. While she waited she looked around for the bast rouite they could take. Once they were all out she told them what looked like the easiest way was.

"OK, how aabout, we cross the Thunderpath infront of the Twolegs Nests and once we are over, we can continue to follow the river. Once again, thank you Tiger."

"No problem. Have a safe journey. Those bears are dangerous things. They can easily kill a Twoleg. 'll be waiting for yas'" He mewed as they padded away.

Dawnfire led the cats under the fence and past the two Twoleg Nests. They reached another fence but didn't have to climb under as there was part of the fence open. The horses were running aroung in the fields and one or two of them had Twolegs on their backs.

"Look at that! The stupid creatures actualy let them on their backs!" Gorsepaw mewed.

"Haven't you ever seen them in the moor? The Towlegs let them out of their territory and they come onto the moor riding on the horses backs." Kestrelwing quietened him. "Twolegs are stupid creatures and I guess the horses have no choice."

They cats carried on and they reached the Thunderpath. A monster came from the distance but it slowed down when it neared the cats. Dawnfires heart lurched. Did it see them? But it passed the cats and turned onto another Thunderpath beside the horseplace. The roar stopped and the monster went to sleep. Four Twolegs came out of the monsters belly. Two of them were kits. They made horrible ear splitting shreaks of exitment. The older male Twoleg quietened them down and they dissapeared behind the Twoleg Nest farthest away from them.

"I wonder what that was about" Greynose asked.

"I don't know, but lets go before another monster comes. We shal cross two by two. You will go with your Clanmate. Everyone got that?" The cats nodded in agreement. "OK, RiverClan, you go first. Then WindClan, then ShadowClan and finally Greynose and I"

Silverpebble and Rippletail shot across the Thunderpath and into the bushed on the other side. A monster roared in the distance but Kestrelwing ran after them with Gorsepaw on his heels. The monster came into veiw just as the WindClan cats made it across. It zoomed past the four remaining cats. When all was clear Stormpelt ran across and Bluepaw followed him more catiously. Another monster was coming and Bluepaw froze with terror where she was. Stormpelt reached the other side as the monster came into veiw on the other side of the road. The side that Bluepaw was on!

Chapter Thirteen; The Wolves

"Bluepaw! No!" Stormpelt screeched from where he was standing. He shouted at her trying to get her to move but it was no use. Bluepaw was frozen to the ground looking at the moster as it came closer and closer. Stormpelt hurled across towards her and knocked her over. The monster was very close now and Dawnfire thought that they were both gonners. But Stormpelt had knocked her over and the bothe tumbled onto the other side of the Thunderpath just as the monster zoomed past. Quick as lighning Stormpelt grabbed Bluepaw by the scruff and dragged her across the Thunderpath. another monster was coming but they had already reached the opposite side by the time it went past.

Now it was for her turn. She made sure no monsters were coming and she dashed across the hard surface. Running across the rough black stone made her paws burn but she didn't care. Monsters could kill cats with one hit of their round black paws. She reached the other side and dashed into the bushes. Stormpelt was telling Bluepaw about how close they had both come to deaath. Bluepaws round blue eyes were scared. Obviously Stormpelts shouting hadn't calmed her down, but just made her ore terrified.

"Stormpelt, your not going to get through to her like that." Silverpebble growled at him. "Look she's terrified. She needs calming down not frightened even more. Move!" He was clearly taken aback by the RiverClan she-cats words. Normaly Silverpebble was a gentle cat and Dawnfire had never seen her so ... so fierce. It reminded her of Frostflower who was gentle but in battle she was always very fierce, witch also made it easier to beleive she was Frostflowers' sister.

"Bluepaw, are you alright?" Her words were a lot genlter now. "Now listen to me, you must never ever freeze in the middle of the Thunderpath again, please. You could of died and a monsters blow is probably enough to take away nine ives. If you died, what would happen to the prophecy?"

Bluepaw looked a little calmer. "I- I'm sorry Stormpelt. I'm sorry everyone. I just got scared thats all."

"Its OK Bluepaw." Dawnfire mewed. "But lets get going, its almost sunhigh." The cats just nodded and followed Dawnfire along the side of the Thunderpath. They soon came to a bridge crossing the river. They jumped down a small hill and followed a path beside the river. They carried on walking untill it came to sunset.

"We shall rest here for the night. Try to find food. Silverpebble, maybe you could catch us any fish and maybe teach some of us how to catch it."

"Sure, I'd be happy to." Silverpebble mewed going over to the waters edge to fish. She soon came back with two fish in her mouth. "They taste great. Try some." She mewed dropping the fish at her paws. Dawnfire bit into the fish and was greeted by a slight salty taste. It was good though.

"Thats delicious!" Dawnfire exclaimed.

"I know right. Want to learn how to catch them? Then when your in your territory by the lake, you can catch one any time. But you have to eat them within a day or else that start to go bad."

Dawnfire nodded and ate the rest of the fish. She walked oer to where Silverpebble was sitting at the waters edge.

"The trick is to not let your shadow fall across the water.When a fish comes close you stick your paw in and hook the fish with you claws. You fling it out of the water and kill it when it lands on the shore, oh, like this," She mewed. She dabbed her paw in the water and took it out again and dropped a fish on the ground at their paws. It squirmed around and Silverpebble sunk her claws into its neck. "You try."

Dawnfire looked into the water being careful not to let her shadow fall just as Silverpebble said. She saw a small silver blob and she put her paw in the water. She felt something smooth and scaly so she quickly slid her claws out and she quickly lifted her paw out of the water. The fish landed on the ground and she bit its neck killing it.

"That was good Dawnfire, but we never bite our fish. Its easier to use your claws as then you dont geet scales in you mouth."

Dawnfire nodded. Then Frostflower popped into her mind. "Silverpebble, can I talk to you about something?"

"Yes, what?"

"Come with me," Dawnfire nodded to a thick bush where they would be hidden. Once they were in the bush Dawnfire started to regret asking her to talk. "OK, um ..." She wsn't sure what to say. "Do you know your father?"

Silverpebble started to look a little worried. "Yeah, he's called Shadepelt. Why?"

"Um ... well, he isn't your father."

She looked at Dawnfire and sighed. "I know. Mother told me not long ago. She told me my father was Lionblaze from ThunderClan. I couldn't beleive it but it made sense. Shadepelt had a litter with my mother. He looks at them every day with love but when he looked at me, it wasnt the same look. Mother then said that he killed my father and for that I hate Shadepelt. She said I had two siblings but they died."

"Yeah, Silverkit and Berrykit."

"How do you know?"

"Listen, you are not the only one. You have a sister. She is my best friend Frostflower." Dawnfire whispered.

"So, I have a sister in another Clan, thats unbeleivable. I wish I knew her." Silverpebbles eyes dulled with sadness.

"Don't worry, you can see her at gatherings. I'm sure she would love to-" Dawnfire was cut of by a yowl of terror. The two cats burst out of the bush to see three grey dogs.

"Dawnfire help." Bluepaw yowled. The dog at the lead lunged for her ad Stormpelt ran to her side and slashed at his muzzle.

"Back off!" He snarled at it.

Just then dawnfire saw her mother. "Dawnfire, They are wolves. You havw wandered onto their territory. Go up a tree, quick!"

"Up a tree everyone! Quickly!" Dawnfire hissed as all three wolves lunged at the cats.The only problem was, there wasn't many trees around here, and the trees closest was a good run before you reached it. A wolf loomed over Greynose, ready to strike a killing blow. Dawnfire leapt at it, her claws out. "Stay away from my mate!" She hissed as she fastend herself on its back. She dug her claws in until she heard the wolf yelp. She gripped with her forelegs and rand her back claws along its flank. Greynose leapt up to help her. He bit dow hard into its neck. The wolf tried to shake them off but he was growing weaker.

Dawnfire dug her claws into its neck. She saw blood seeping through the new wound she had just produced. It collapsed underneithe the two cats and they jumped off.

"Lets run to the tree over there." Greynose mewed. They dashed across the grass and up the tree. In the growing dark it was hard to see where the other cats were. She heasrd an ear splitting sound of a cat in pain.

"Oh no, Greynose. What if that cat is dead?" Dawnfire looked into his eyes.

"I don't know. We wil just have to wait." Greynose mewed.

They both waited for a while and two of the wolves bolted past under the tree. Dawnfire decided that they should go down and see what was up. Greynose agreed and followed her. Silverpebble came barreling into the two cats.

"Oh thank StarClan its you two! We need Rippletail now!"

"Why whats happened?" Greynose demanded.

"Bluepaw has lost one of her lives. One of those grey foxes attacked her. We need Rippletail, quickly!!!" Silverpebble mewed pacing up and down. It reminded Dawnfire once again of Frostflower, she

paces up and down when ever she got distressed.

"OK, Silverpebble, calm down. Greynose, can you go find her please? Silverpebble you go aswell." The two cats nodded and went to look for Rippletail. Dawnfire ran to where the others were waiting, they surrounded Bluepaws' body.

'Dawnfire, she still hasn't woken up. I think that dog might of killed her." Stormpelt mewed sadly looking down at his paws.

“I don’t think so Stormpelt. She will be fine. StarClan will keep her for as long as they need to.” Dawnfire replied giving him a reassuring lick on the ear. He flickered his tail in thanks.

Just then Silverpebble emerged from the bracken with Greynose and Rippletail following behind. Dawnfire stalked up to the RiverClan medicine cat.

“Where were you?” Dawnfire asked her angrily. “We were fighting those wolves and you run off.”

“I’m sorry Dawnfire. I’m a medicine cat, I also thought that maybe I could find some herbs to help heal your wounds, but there is only coltsfoot which is only good for bellyaches.” Hearing the hurt in the RiverClan cats’ voice made Dawnfire realise that she had taken it too far. Of course she can’t fight, and the only thing Rippletail could do was to look for herbs.

“I’m sorry Rippletail. I didn’t mean to snap, it’s just we are worried about Bluepaw.”

“Rippletail, we need you. Is she alright?” Stormpelt asked from where he was still sitting.

Rippletail rushed over to examine the apprentices’ body. “I think she is fine. But she is in the paws of StarClan at the moment.”

Dawnfire padded over to join them. Just then Bluepaws’ tail twitched. Dawnfires’ heart leapt of joy as the she-cats eyes opened. “Bluepaw, you’re alive!” She cried.

Bluepaw sat up and looked at the cats around her. “I died. It was ...

weird. I saw a white flash and then I was in front of Blackstar and a half clear image of me with a big long wound along my neck. He said that's what I looked like when I died and that I needed to stay there until StarClan had finished healing the wound that killed me and..." She trailed off looking uneasy. "You were there." She carried on pointing her tail toward Stormpelt. "I saw you crouching over my body and asking for me to come back. Then Blackstar said something. He said that it looks like you are moving away from Goldenleaf."

Dawnfires' heart sunk. Blackstar had mentioned the ShadowClan warriors' affair with her sister. She looked at Stormpelt. His eyes had lost all their usual sparkle and he looked like he was ill.

"Stormpelt, who is Goldenleaf?"

Chapter Fourteen; The Threat From Tigerstar

Stormpelt looked down at his paws looking very uncomfortable. Dawnfires' heart raced as he started to speak.

"Um... well, she's my mate."

"What? But, there isn't a cat in ShadowClan called Goldenleaf." Bluepaw protested.

"I know she isn't from ShadowClan. She's from ThunderClan."

Shocked gaspes came from the cats around them. Bluepaws' eyes widened.

"That- that's not true is it? Stormpelt, please tell me that's not true." She stammered.

"I'm sorry Bluepaw. It's true." He mewed looking away from the blue-grey she-cats gaze. He walked away to the river and sat down.

Greynose nudged her side. "Your sisters' kits are half-Clan."

"I know Greynose. I knew before the gathering." She whispered to him. "Everyone listen. I know this is a big shock, but we must continue our journey. When we get back I would like you all to keep this secret, for the sake of Stormpelt and my sister and her kits." Dawnfire mewed raising her voice for the rest of the cats to hear.

"They had kits?" Kestrelwings' shocked mewed raised above the mummers of agreement.

"Yes they did. Three." Dawnfire replied to him.

"How can we keep half-Clan cats a secret? It will get out eventually." He hissed. Dawnfire knew he was right. Half-Clan

heritage never remained a secret.

"Look, Kestrelwing please. It will probably come out soon, but I want to try keeping it a secret for as long as possible. My sisters' kits are loved. I don't want that to be taken away from them this early. She trusted me with her secret." Dawnfire begged him.

"Wait. You knew already?"

"Yes, I knew since the kits were two days old. Please Kestrelwing?"

He grunted in agreement but he obviously wasn't happy.

"Right everyone. It's late, we must rest for we have a long journey ahead of us." Dawnfire ordered. The cats went into the bushes to find places to sleep. She noticed that Kestrelwing and Gorsepaw stayed where they were. She remembered going into the WindClan camp and seeing burrows that they used as dens but someone told her that they slept outside and only went into the burrows if it was bad weather.

She padded over to where Greynose lay underneath a shrub. She crouched down a wriggled under to lie beside him. Once she was in they shared tongues for a while. It was just before mooonhigh when they decided to sleep. She put her head on her paws and closed her eyes and instantly fell asleep.

Dawnfire padded through a silent forest. At first she thought she was in StarClan territory, but there was something different about the trees. Not just the trees, but the usual glint of stars were no longer present, and the moon did not shine. Just then she caught the scent of another cat. Someone was watching her. She turned around to see a pair of yellow eyes looking at her from a thorn bush. Her fur stood on end as she realised who was watching her. She had heard about this cat in nursery stories. Tigerstar.

"What do you want?" She asked him threateningly. "Where am I and why have you brought me here?"

"Young Dawnfire, you are safe. You are in the Dark Forest, the Place of no Stars, but you needn't worry. I will not hurt you." He mewed.

The tone of his voice made it sound half true.

"No, I do not trust you Tigerstar. You killed innocent cats and you only answered one of my questions. Now, send me back to StarClans' grounds."

His eyes darkened and his fur bristled. "Such a bossy furball! Why do you wish to be in StarClan? Why not have powers and control. Like a bunch of dead cats are ever going to give you that!"

"Yeah exactly! You are just a dead cat along with the other Dark Forest members. So if StarClan can't give me powers because they are dead then either can you!" With that Dawnfire stalked off. She heard a growl behind her and saw Tigerstar walking towards her. It frightened her but she refused to show it.

"We are more than dead cats. We had power. We had strength. StarClan can't give you that." Tigerstar snarled at her. He unsheathed his claws and was about to attack her when a tortoiseshell body jumped in front of her.

"Leave her alone Tigerstar." Hissed the familiar voice of her mother. "StarClan can give you those things if you earn them by being loyal. She obviously does have courage to stand up to you lousy excuse of a cat!" Swiftleaf clawed Tigerstar on the muzzle before turning to Dawnfire. "Run over that way." She mewed quickly pointing her in the direction she was supposed to take. Dawnfire nodded and dashed for the bushes. She looked behind her to see Tigerstar and her mother battling each other. She saw Tigerstar had her pinned down and wondered if StarClan warriors can die.

"Dawnfire! Quickly over here!" the voice of Smallkit came from a bramble thicket beside her. Dawnfire scrambled under the thorns and crouched beside Smallkit.

"Can StarClan warriors die?" She asked him.

"I'm not sure." He replied. "But wait! Some StarClan warriors are on their way. In fact here they come now."

Just as he said it about five StarClan cats were running past the

bush. A pair of green eyes looked through the branches and Firestar whispered to them, "Come on out." The two cats nodded and followed him out. They ran back to the clearing and Tigerstar had Swiftleaf pinned to the ground. Firrestar walked up to him and stared at him. "You know you shouldn't kill a StarClan warrior. They might fade away forever."

Dawnfire felt her blood turn to ice. If he killed Swiftleaf, she will be gone forever? She saw Tigerstars' eyes light up with delight.

"Does that mean if I kill you, you will fade away?" Tigerstar asked him with a curious tone in his voice. He was prepared to kill Firestar.

"Perhaps, but joining StarClan has made me ... somewhat stronger. Its like I'm immune to your threats." Firestar replied calmly.

"Shut up Kittypet! You were always weak. You had to ask others about me. You went to Barleys barn to warn Ravenpaw about me and ask about Oakheart and Redtail. I knew you had been telling Bluestar about me. It was obvious the way you went into her den looking sly and coming out dissapointed. After she shouted at you the whole Can had heard, they couldn't make out your words but they knew she was angry. They knew she couldn't be bothered to listen to a Kittypet with a paw in two worlds. You were nothng but a usless cat who took up space." Tigerstar growled at him, his amber eyes ablaze with fire.

This made Firestar angry. His emerald green eyes stared straight into Tigerstars. "You were the usless one Tigerstar, you killed Brindlefface." He mewed nodding his head to a pretty tabby she-cat. "And I even witnessed you murdering Stonefur just because he was half-Clan and Runningwind." He hissed at him with hatred as he pointed to a slender tabby tom and a blue-grey tom. "You almost killed Mistyfoot, Stormfur and Feathertail for also being half-Clan, if it wasn't for me, Greystripe and Ravenpaw, they would of been dead."

Ravenpaw? Dawnfire thought. Who is or was Ravenpaw?

As if he read her mind Runningwind who was beside her whispered,

"He was Tigerstars' apprentice. He witnessed the murder of Redtail and Tigerstar threatened to kill him to keep him quiet. Firestar and Greystripe took him to Barleys barn. He doesn't mean Ravenpaw back at ThunderClan now."

Dawnfire nodded.

Tigerstar started speaking again. "Oh Firestar. Everyone knows what I did, but you also killed someone. Don't forget that. You killed me. If it wasn't for you, I would not of died that day. Your rambling about my murders and that I wouldn't keep my promise to BloodClan killed me. I was going to give them half the forest and I would have the other half. I gave you the choice to join TigerClan but no! You had to kill me and then you take over the forest and formed it into LionClan. Isn't that what I did, to be honest we are not so different then."

"I never took over the forest. I united the Clans for a day to get rid of Scourage and BloodClan. After that, we returned to normal Clan life. I did not kill you, Scorage did." Firestar snarled back.

"Yes, but you made him kill me."

"It was your own stupidity that killed you! Now go! StarClan has nothing to do with you. We do not interact with the Dark Forest. Come StarClan, we must leave this place. Dawnfire you must never wander into the Dark Forest again. Do you hear me?" Firestar asked her. She nodded her head.

She followed the other StarClan warriors and looked back at Tigerstar. His yellow eyes burned into her.

"You'll be back Dawnfire. I will be back. Your dreams are no longer safe. You are no longer safe I can make sure of that. Don't you ever forget that just like StarClan warriors, we can come to you any time so don't think you are safe in the waking world. Keep your eyes open, keep your ears pricked, because one day Dawnfire, you'll be crowfood." Tigerstar threatened her.

She quickly caught up with the others and Swiftleaf sent her to sleep. She woke up beside Greynose trembling with fear. Tigerstars'

words came back to her as she started to groom her messed up fur. "Keep your eyes open, keep your ears pricked, because one day Dawnfire, you'll be crowfood."

Did anyone eles notice that that is similar to what Tigerstar said to Firestar the day he was banished? I just changed it a little.

Here is Tigerstars' statment "And as for you-" he hissed. "Keep your eyes open, Fireheart. Keep your ears pricked. Keep looking behind you. Because one day I'll find you and then you'll be crowfood." (Forest of Secrets, page 324, chapter 28)

Chapter Fifteen; The Cats Find Themselves Being Followed

Dawnfire woke the rest of the cats up.

"Right, we need to sort out fresh-kill." She mewed once all the cats had gathered. "Um, Silverpebble could you fish please?" Silverpebble nodded her head. "OK thank you. All those who wish to have fish please wait here. Did anyone catch any scent of prey yesterday?" She asked them.

"I did smell rabbit but it dissapeared after those grey foxes or dogs, whatever they were came. I guess they scared all the prey off from here to WindClan!" Kesrelwing hissed.

"Not to worry. Can you take Gorsepaw out and see if you can find some rabbit. After all, you two are the best rabbit hunters out of all of us." She mewed ttrying to cheer the WindClan warrior. Her praise made him smile a bit but he was clearly not happy that the wolves had come. Gorsepaw joined him as they stalked off to find some rabbit.

"Hey there Dawnfire." Greynose mewed nuzzling her.

"Hi Greynose." She said and burried her nose into his fur. All of a sudden she felt the fur on the back of her neck stand on end. It felt like someone was watching her. She took a step back from Greynose and turned to look over the river. A pair of blue eyes were staring at her but they dissapeared before she could see who it was.

"Are you alright?" Greynose asked her.

"Yeah, yeah. I'm fine."

"You clearly didn't seem fine earlier."

"It was just a bad dream that's all."

He shrugged and gave her a sympathetic lick on the ear. "Don't worry Dawnfire. Just remember that no matter how scary a dream is, I will always be here for you."

Dawnfire couldn't find the right words to reply.

"I know your still not used to this much affection. But it will grow on you like your tail." He mewed to her with a twinkle in his eyes. He always knew how to cheer her up.

She returned the lick and walked over to where Silverpebble was sitting catching fish. "Need any help?" She asked the silver tabby. She sook her head and pointed to a pile of fish. "OK then."

Dawnfire was unsure what to do. She padded along the river when a scent coming from across the river caught her nose. It seemed familiar. *Probably some kind of plant or herb that I smellt back at home.* She thought. But it didn't smell like that, it was more of an animal scent. She decided to look for herself.

Making sure the other cats didn't see her she ran along the river and found some stones she could use as stepping stones. She reached the other side getting only her paws wet. She padded back down to where she found the scent. It grew stronger. *Its a cat!* She thought. She knew this cat. Then caught another scent. It was another cat. The two cat scents were very similar.

Just then a white she-cat padded out of the bush. She stopped dead when she saw Dawnfire. She looked surprised to see her. The she recognised her.

"Frostflower?"

*** **Sorry its short!** ***

Chapter Sixteen; Frostflower

●FROSTFLOWER'S POV●

Frostflower looked down at her paws. Her and Foxclaw had been following them ever since they had left horseplace. It was hard to follow them and she thought they would never of been caught. *Why did I look at her? Why? StarClan intended we go unseen and unheard.*

"Frostflower why are you here? I'm sure they are worried about you." Dawnfire mewed to her.

"Look, I'm sorry Dawnfire but there is another part of the prophecy that StarClan left uncovered. They didn't know about it themselves untill the secreet cresent moon meeting." She replied to her friend.

Dawnfires' green eyes grew stern. "What do you mean?" She asked coldly.

Just then Foxclaw came out of the bushes and stopped when he saw Dawnfire. "Frostflower, I thought we'd promised not to tell them."

"I'm sorry Foxclaw, she found us." She mewed to her mate.

"OK, can someone please tell me what is going on before I'm missed." Dawnfire asked angrily.

Friistflower sighed. "The night you all had dreams from StarClan, I had a dream too. StarClan didn't know about the rest of the prophecy."

"There was another part to the prophecy?" Dawnfire asked.

"Yes." Frostflower continued. "We also had to go to the Moonpool. There Firestar met us after you and the other leaders were gone. He said that we were to follow you but we had to remain unseen and unheard. He told us to stick to the opposite side of the river from which you were on. We too also got extra lives and-"

"Frostflower, what is the other part of the prophecy?" Dawnfire asked with rage in her voice. She clearly wasn't happy that StarClan hadn't told her.

Frostflower looked at Foxclaw. He just nodded his head slightly for her to continue. "Firestar said that the fox of frost shall seek out the grey dawn to help finish what it started."

"Dawnfires' green eyes were like emeralds as they sparkled with confusion. "Why would they not tell me? They said I was the one to lead us into this battle with the bears and it is my job to..." She trailed off as she started to understand.

Frostflower felt bad. StarClan didn't want Dawnfire to know about her and Foxclaw being involved. Frostflower still had no idea why.

"They don't want me to do this!" Dawnfires voice started to grow loud as she spoke. "They didn't want me to know anything otherwise you two would be with us and we'd all still be at the clearing. Why? What is so special about them that they have to follow us like foxes."

Frostflower guessed that Dawnfire didn't really care wheather she was there or not. She understood. "Dawnfire," she mewed soothingly. "We're sorry. We really are. I don't know why StarClan wanted us to follow in secret."

Dawnfire looked at her with cold anger in her eyes. Why was she this angry? StarClan only made them follow her and the others. There must be some reason why that only Dawnfire knows.

"You'd better come with me." Dawnfire mewed. "There's not much point hiding behind us." She stalked off back the way she came. Frostflower entwined her tail with Foxclaw's and followed Dawnfire back to their temporary camp.

Frostflower sat and watched as Dawnfire finished explaining why her and Foxclaw were there now. She felt bad for not telling Dawnfire but they were gone before she even got the chance. Dawnfire didn't mention anything about the prophecy but just said that we followed them because we wanted to make sure Dawnfire

was alright. Once she finished, all the cats gathered behind Dawnfire and Greynose and they set off.

Frostflower padded up to Dawnfire. "I'm sorry Dawnfire." She whispered.

Dawnfire turned her head around to face her. Her green eyes were still angry. "Can we not bring this up anymore Frostflower." She mewed.

Frostflower nodded and fell back beside Foxclaw at the end of the group. "Why wont she forgive me?" She mewed.

"She's probably having a hard time. After all, StarClan did put her in charge." He replied to her giving her a sympathetic lick on the ear. "But lets not worry about that just now. We have at least one more days travel."

Frostflowed nodded. The patrol remained quiet as they walked through unknown territory. After sunhigh Dawnfire let them stop and hunt. The main prey was fish as they were right next to the river. After they all finished Dawnfire carried on leading them along the rivers' edge.

Sunset came and Dawnfire made them stop for the night. Maybe now Frostflower could try to reason with her again. But why was Dawnfire so mad at them? They hadn't done anything wrong had they? She padded over to where Dawnfire sat crouched next to Greynosse. She had her head resting on Greynoses' shoulder and Frostflower felt a pang of jealousy. Now that they had mates, things wold never be the same again like when it was just the two of them.

"Um... Dawnfire? Can I talk to you for a moment?" Frostflower asked.

Dawnfires' eyes opened and she sighed. "Fine!" She mewed. She got up from where she was sitting and followed Frostflower. "What is it?" She mewed once they sat down.

"Look .. I'm really sorry Dawnfire. Whatever we've done to upset you, we're sorry."

Dawnfire looked away from Frostflowers pleading stare. She nodded her head and walked away. Frostflowers heart dropped. Had she fogiven her? She hoped so, but began to doubt. The look on her face shown she hadn't really been that interested in what she had to say. *I blew it!* She thought. If she couldn't get Dawnfire to fogive her now, could she ever get her to forgive her?

Chapter Seventeen; Gorsepaws' Attack

Dawnfire woke up beside Greynose, shivering as the cold wind blew. She could see a low fog, covering the ground. She could hardly see two tail-lengths in front of her.

"Oh great!" Grumbled Greynose. "The fog is so thick; we might not be able to go anywhere today."

Dawnfire mewed in agreement. She looked around to see the others waking up. Frostflower was beside the river sharing a fish with Foxclaw. Seeing her made her fur prickle. She still liked Frostflower, but now she were part of the prophecy. She wasn't angry at StarClan, or most of her anger wasn't because of StarClan, it was because they had been following them in secret. But the thing Dawnfire was most angry about, was that they saw the battle with the wolves and they didn't do a thing to help. Bluepaw lost a life because of the wolves. Dawnfire kept thinking that if they were there to help then Bluepaw might not of lost her life.

"Dawnfire, she said she was sorry. Why are you still mad?" Greynose asked obviously guessing she was still angry.

"It’s hard to explain." She replied.

Greynose nuzzled her cheek and began to groom her fur. The gentle rhythmic strokes of his tongue seemed to calm her down. It was like being a kit all over again.

When he finished she turned round to him. His yellow eyes seemed to be filled with happiness and love. She buried her muzzle into his medium-length fur.

He purred and that made her purr. Being with him made her happy, it made her forget all her worries.

"Greynose," She mewed.

"Yeah."

"I just want you to know that I really care for you. I'm so glad it was you who could make this journey with me and no other warrior."

Her comment seemed to make him purr even louder. "I care for you too Dawnfire. I've loved you forever."

"Well, not quite!"

He sighed. "Well, you know what I mean."

She mewed in agreement and pulled away from him. "I need to get the others organised."

He nodded his head and licked her ear. "I'll go hunt for both of us."

She returned the lick and walked out of the bush and gathered the cats around her. "Is everyone present?" She asked.

Gorsepaw stood up and stood in front of Dawnfire with hatred in his eyes. "Kestrelwing's not here. Can't you see that? Are you blind? You could spot him from far away. He's the only golden tom here! Why can't you see he is not here?"

"OK, sorry Gorsepaw he's-"

"He's been taken away by something and it's your entire fault! If you didn't make us stay right here last night then he'd still be with me. Do you only think of yourself? You are nothing but a stupid ThunderClan cat. A liar! Haarepaw did not stael prey from you, ThunderClan are nothing but scrawny crow-food eaters!"

Why was Gorsepaw so angry?

"Look, Gorsepaw. He's probably hunt-"

"Shut up Dawnfire! Why did StarClan send you to lead us? ThunderClan are useless pieces of fox-dung that show no respect!" Gorsepaw shouted.

Silverpebble walked up to stand beside him. "Calm down Gorsepaw. ThunderClan haven't done anything."

"Back of you fish eater!" He snarled raking his claws across her face. Rippletail hissed and ran over beside her Clanmate whose cheek was bleeding.

"Gorsepaw! There's no need for that!" Dawnfire hissed at him.

"Again. Why do I always have to repeat myself? You are nothing but fox-dung! This will be my last time saying it. You never were a good warrior just like the rest of ThunderClan! Redstar is a worthless leader and so are you!" He hissed. "You don't deserve to lead us through this!" He sprang at her and raked his claws across her flank.

She winced as pain seeped through her. She didn't want to fight back, but it was the only way. She rounded on him and bit his ear. He tried to slash his claws across her face but missed. He let go of her and she managed to climb onto his back. Her weight was pushing him down. She ran her claws across his sides causing him to collapse.

"Don't try it Gorsepaw! I'm a warrior. I'm a lot more experienced than you." She hissed.

"Dawnfire! Get off him!" Rippletail screeched as she came through the reeds. "If those wounds get infected you're the one treating them!"

"Well, maybe he should of thought twice about attacking her." Frostflower piped up. "If his wounds get infected, let them go untreated. He will deserve it for attacking her."

Dawnfire liked how Frostflower defended her against the RiverClan medicine cat. They always defended each other. It made her think. Maybe she should give her another chance. She released her grip on Gorsepaw and he sprang free.

"Come on Gorsepaw. Come with me so I can clean your wounds." Rippletail mewed. Before she could escort him Frostflower pushed

herself in front of the medicine cat.

"Oh no! I think I made it pretty clear when I said his wounds were not getting treated." She mewed sternly.

"But he needs treatment" Rippletail protested.

"No! Leave him be." Frostflower hissed.

"Dawnfire?" Rippletail asked tilting her head to one side. "He needs treatment."

Dawnfire thought for a moment. He has wounds and wounds need to be treated. But he attacked her.

"No Dawnfire. He attacked you. He tried to kill you." Frostflower mewed.

"I know he attacked me, I don't think he meant to try kill me though. But however, he shall get one dressing on and no more." Dawnfire mewed. Frostflowers' blue eyes darted to Gorsepaw and showed clear hatred.

"Thank you Dawnfire," Rippletail mewed dipping her head. "But why only one when I could heal his wou-"

"Rippletail! Dawnfire said one dressing. She is our leader just now so you must listen to her!" Frostflower shouted.

"I'm not the leader. I'm just in charge and have to lead these cats."

Frostflower flicked her ears but didn't reply to her, she carried on talking to Rippletail. "You're lucky she even gave you permission to give him treatment!"

Foxclaw came up beside Frostflower. "Come on." He mewed. "Let's just leave Rippletail."

Frostflower followed Foxclaw into the bushes. Dawnfire heard a rustle behind her and spotted Greynose with a few pieces of prey in his jaws. He stopped dead when he saw Dawnfire and Gorsepaw covered in wounds.

“What happened here?” He asked dropping the prey to the ground.

“Gorsepaw attacked Dawnfire.” Silverpebble said. “He called her and ThunderClan fox-dung and stupid excuses for cats.”

Greynose glared and Gorsepaw. “How dare you!” He said. “How dare you call us worthless cats? Maybe you should take a look at yourself before calling other cats worthless.”

Gorsepaw flattened himself on the ground. “I- I’m sorry.”

Rippletail pushed herself in between the two toms. “Greynose, leave him alone. Dawnfire has already hurt him enough.”

Greynose grunted at the medicine cat and walked off. A rustling in the bushes made Dawnfire whip around. Kestrelwing had appeared with some more prey. Gorsepaw looked so happy to see that Kestrelwing had returned but his eyes darkened when he realised that he had attacked Dawnfire for no reason. Silverpebble once again explained what had happened and they settled down to eat some prey. Once they had finished, Rippletail escorted Gorsepaw to the river and began to treat his wounds.

Chapter Eighteen; Friends Again!

“Rippletail hurry up with that dressing. We have to get going.” Dawnfire shouted. It was past sunhigh now and most of the fog had cleared. Rippletail had gone with Gorsepaw to clean his wounds and then add a poultice mixture. Rippletail still hadn’t returned. Dawnfire thought this was the best time to reason with Frosstflower.

She padded over to where Frostflower was crouched looking into the river.

“Hi Frostflower.” Dawnfire mewed.

“Hi.” She replied glumly.

“What’s wrong?”

“Oh, um ... nothing.”

Dawnfire knew she was lying. She could tell. “Come on. Tell the truth.”

Frostflower sighed. “I’m just a bit worried that’s all. About the whole bear thing. I mean. What if you or me, Foxclaw or even Greynose die?”

“Me and Greynose already had this discussion.” She mewed. “Don’t worry, but that’s not what I’m here for.”

“Well what are you here for?”

“I’m sorry I got mad at you. I really didn’t mean too. I guess it was withal the stress about leading cats into unknown territory and-“

“I understand Dawnfire. But I know that isn’t all what’s up.”

As usual, Frostflower had read her mind. They were so close it was unbelievable.

“It was the fight with the wolves. If you had been following us, then you saw it, you saw Bluepaw lose a life. And you didn’t do a thing.” Dawnfire felt sad as she recalled what had happened.

“Yes, we saw it.” Frostflower whispered.

“Why didn’t you help us?”

“I’m really, really sorry Dawnfire. I really am. I wanted to help but Silverkit stopped us. She said we couldn’t go out and help. But I had already lost my extra life and Foxclaw wanted to go out and help because of his sister and- and....”

Frostflower trailed off. Then her blue eyes lit up with fear. “You didn’t here that did you?”

“About you losing your extra life and Foxclaws’ sister.”

“Yeah... I lost my life getting hit b a monster.”

“What? You were hit by a monster?”

“Yes, but StarClan healed me and gave me another life.”

“Well, at least your OK! Now, about Foxclaw and his sister."

"Oh right. His sister is Bluepaw. His father is Rainstar the ShadowClan leader."

"Really?" Dawnfire loked at Foxclaw who was talking to Greynose. First there was Frostflower who was a half-Clan between RiverClan and ThunderClan, and Foxclaw was a half-Clan between ShadowClan and ThunderClan. So many half-Clan cats. Frostflower, Foxclaw, Silverpebble and Bluepaw. Goldenleafs' kits Brightkit, Stormkit and Dapplekit. *Who else?* Dawnfire thought.

They sat in silence for a while. Silverpebble broke the silence by crashing into the river.

“Sorry guys. I didn’t mean to interrupt. Rippletail has returned with Gorsepaw.”

“Thank you Silverpebble.” Dawnfire mewed as the waterlogged she-cat came out of the river. Silverpebble stood beside Frostflower. They looked so identical. Same blue eyes, same everything. It reminded her again that they were sisters. An idea popped into Dawnfires’ head. Frostflower said she wished to meet her sister and get to know her better, why not introduce them now.

“Silverpebble, this is Frostflower. My best friend, your sister.”

Silverpebble looked at Frostflower.

“What?”

“She’s your sister.”

“That’s not true. I know I’m half ThunderClan but...”

Frostflower looked into Dawnfires’ eyes. The look she gave her was stern but it melted away and was replaced by thankfulness.

“I’m your sister Silverpebble. We also have a brother and sister but their in StarClan.”

It took Silverpebble a moment to take it all in.

“It all makes sense now. Mother had said I had kin somewhere else. I thought she was referring to Lionblaze, but now I guess she meant you.”

“Come on, we have to get going.” Dawnfire mewed.

The three she cats padded back to the group and they set off.

They carried on until it was almost dusk.

“We shall stop here for the night and carry on tomorrow.” Dawnfire mewed to the group. “We shall leave at dawn. No delays.”

The cats settled down for the night. Dawnfire sat next to Greynose

and Frostflower. It felt more like home, more like ThunderClan, surrounded by her best friends. She put her head on her paws and sleep came crashing over her like a black wave.

Dawnfires' eyes opened. She was in an unfamiliar forest. But then she began to recognise the twisting roots and the dark leaves of the trees. She was back in the Dark Forest.

Chapter Nineteen; Dawnfire Finds Herself Back In The Dark Forest

Dawnfire began to panic. The last time she entered the Dark Forest was when Tigerstar had threatened her.

She looked around for the glow of eyes in trees and bushes. There was none.

"Swiftleaf? Firestar? Help me. I'm back here in the Dark Forest." Before she could think the words were out.

"You shouldn't shout here. Your voice travels across the whole forest." A deep voice growled behind her. She whipped around to see Tigerstar, but this cat wasn't Tigerstar. He looked like him, the same muscular build, the same tabby coat. Only the eyes were different. This cat had unusual ice-blue eyes rather than a deep amber.

"My name is Hawkfrost. I'am Tigerstars' son. You really shouldn't be here Dawnfire. Tigerstar could kill you."

"He can try."

"He will, and he will succeed."

"And how do you know that?"

"It's obvious. He is powerful. But so am I. I don't want to see you die, I feel bad whenever a helpless cat wanders onto Tigerstars' territory. I used to like the killing, but when Bramblestar joined StarClan, I wanted to stay close to him. I managed to get access from the Dark Forest to StarClan. No other Dark Forest cat can enter StarClan except me."

"I'm not a helpless cat!" Dawnfire hissed.

"Shh! Keep your voice down. Now follow me and keep quiet."

Not bothering to see if she followed or not, Hawkfrost bounded into the bracken. Dawnfire wasn't sure whether she should trust him or not. But she wanted out of here so she followed him.

Hawkfrost was running pretty fast but Dawnfire managed to catch up to him. "Slow down." She panted.

At her request, Hawkfrost slowed down to a gentle pace.

"We can't stay and travel slow Dawnfire, we must run. You see that white light over there," he pointed to a small white hole. "Aim for that. You go on ahead, I'll keep watch behind. But still remember to run. Don't daddle and-"

"Yeah, yeah! I got it. Can we go now?"

"Yes." At his word Dawnfire rushed past him and aimed for the white light. But before she could reach it, Hawkfrost jumped in front of her and blocked her path.

"Hawkfrost, why are you blocking me? We need to get through into StarClan." The words were out before she recognised the dark amber eyes of Tigerstar.

"So, my own son has betrayed me?" He growled.

"No, Tigerstar I-"

"Enough! I never thought that *you* would do this. Bramblestar yes. But you?"

Hawkfrost stared at Tigerstar,

"Hawkfrost. You know what the punishment for betraying the Dark Forest is don't you?" Tigerstar hissed menacingly.

Hawkfrost gulped and looked at his paws, his big blue eyes betraying his fear.

"Don't you?" Tigerstar repeated.

"Y- yes."

"Well, then. It is a punishment I thought I would not have to preform for a long time, but it looks like you're time is up."

Dawnfire realised what Tigerstar was about to do. "No!" She yowled. "Stay away from him."

Tigerstar turned to look at her. He looked surprised that she had defended Hawkfrost.

"And why should I?"

"No, Dawnfire. Go to StarClan."

"No, Hawkfrost. You go. Unlike you I can wake up."

"Not if I kill *you* first!" Tigerstar hissed moving towards her.

Dawnfire started to feel fear but she pushed it down. She didn't want Tigerstar to know how scared she really was.

Tigerstar lunged at her, his long claws raked down her side. She went to fight back but her leaped on her and bit into her neck. Her vision went all blurry and she started to feel dizzy.

"Get off her!" She heard Hawkfrost yowl as she dirfted into unconsiousness.

Chapter Twenty: Greynose

Greynose woke up to a twisting and turning Dawnfire. This had happened the other night too. She had said everything was alright, but he didn't believe her. It was clearly obvious that something wasn't up.

He watched her for a bit and she stopped moving. He looked at her closer to notie that she wasn't breathing.

Oh no! He thought. "Dawnfire!" He said softly. She wouldn't move. "Dawnfire!" He repeated. He placed his front paws on her flank and shook her trying to wake her, but she wouldn't wake up. He took his paws off her flank and started to groom himself. As he was licking his paws he tasted blood. *Maybe I cut my pad on a stone.* He thought but as he examined his paw he noticed no wound. His other paw was covered in blood too. It must have come from Dawnfire. He quickly examined her flank and found a long wound on her side. It was to small to be a fox, and to neat to be a badger. It must have been a cat.

"Rippletail!" He called. Moments later the RiverClan medicine cat came pounding towards him.

"What is it?" She asked.

"Its Dawnfire. She was muttering and stuff in her sleep and then she stopped breathing and she has a long wound down her side and-"

Rippletail cut him off. "Woha. Slow down Greynose."

"Sorry, she has a wound, can you check it please?" He asked her.

She nodded her head and bent down to examine Dawnfires' wound. While she was doing that he thought about her wound again. It was along her flank, from her shoulder to her back leg. He noticed the others crowding round and saw Frostflower crouching down beside her. He saw Gorsepaw and his stomach flipped. He had attacked her

the other day. No cat wanted her dead more than him. Without thinking Greynose instantly drove into Gorsepaw and pinned him down.

"How dare you attack her in her sleep!" He growled through gritted teeth. He scraped his claws across Gorsepaws' shoulderblades. It was torturing him that he wasn't allowed to rip his throat out.

"I didn't att- attack her."

"Greynose! Get off him." Frostflower ordered him. "Dawnfire is awake."

Greynose imedietly leapt of the WindClan apprentice and dashed to Dawnfires side. Her ginger fur was ruffled and dul and the bright sparkle in her eyes was replaced with weariness.

"Dawnfire, are you all right?" He asked her soothingly.

She stared at him sadness. "I lost a life." She said almost to herself. "How am I supposed to lead these cats when a dead cat can kill me?"

"What?" Frostflower asked with confusion. "What do you mean a dead cat? Dawnfire, what is going on?"

Dawnfire sighed and heaved herself up. "Foxclaw, can you get the others sorted, Frostflower and Greynose follow me. I need to tell you something. Foxclaw, make sure the others do not leave your sight."

Foxclaw nodded and followed his orders. Greynose and Frostflower followed Dawnfire across the river. The river was shallow enough to wade across and they only got their paws wet. Greynose didn't really like the rush of the currant which could sweep him off his paws but he carried on behind the two she-cats.

Once they crossed Dawnfire sat down and signaled for them to do the same.

"A few nights ago I ended up in the Place Of No Stars or the Dark Forest in my dream. Tigerstar found me and offered me power. I

refused. StarClan warriors came to help me and get me back onto safer grounds, but before they did, Tigerstar threatened me. Last nigh I ended up there again and Hawkfrost tried to get me out."

"Why?" Frostflower asked curiously. "Hawkfrost is double of Tigerstar with the only difference being the eye colour."

"Hawkfrost said that when Bramblestar joined StarClan he wanted to be close to his brother as they are half-brothers. Bramblestar gave Hawkfrost access to StarClan. After that he grew a kinder heart. He tried to help me but Tigerstar stopped him. He threatened to kill Hawkfrost but I stopped him. Instead he killed me, but not enough to take away both lives."

Greynose and Frostflower were speachless.

"I'm sorry I kept it from you, but I don't wan't to talk about this anymore." Dawnfire said. She got up and went back to the temporary camp not caring if they followed her.

"I'm worried. What if she loses her life in a fight with the bears?" Frostflower mumbled. They had obviously made up after their kind of argument.

"Well, lets just hope that dosen't happen." He said. 2Lets go back though." The two cats followed the scent trail that Dawnfire had left.

Once they got back Dawnfire led them yet again thrugh unknowen territory.

Chapter Twenty One; The Bears

Dawnfire led the cats once again through barren wasteland. She remembered her dream and what StarClan had said to her; "Dawnfire, you must not give up. Do not let him defeat you."

"I tried not to!" She had replied to them. It had been more than three days now, but they have had delays, the wolf attack, Bluepaw losing her life, Gorsepaw attacking her and of course, Dawnfire losing her life. She felt awful. She had let them all down.

It was almost sunhigh now so she let them hunt. Dawnfire went to find something for herself when Foxclaw came up to her.

"Dawnfire, I was hunting over that way when I smelt something weird."

"Like what?"

"I don;t know, it wasn't prey scent. Well, it did smelt a bit fishy but it wasn't cats, or foxes or badgers."

Dawnfires heart started to race. Bears.

"Foxclaw, I think you may of found the bears! Show me."

Foxclaw turned around and ran off. She followed him. He had stopped at a bramble bush and she had a sniff. What hit her was nothing she'd ever smelt before. It had a tang of fish and a carnivorous smell to it. She peered through the branches. She saw noting except a small cave.

"I can defiantly smell it but there is nothing there apart from a-" she was cut off by a loud roaring sound. She started to panic. The roaring didn't come from the cave, but from behind them. She turned around to see a big brown creature stating on its hind legs. It was huge!

"Dawnfire!" Bluepaw shreeked. "Help, what is it?"

she looked and the brown creature and was whisked back to the night she went to the Moonpool. Firestar was explaining the creatures and he was explaining the colours they came in. " Browns and blacks." He had told them.

"I know those creatures. What are they called again? Oh yes, bears!" Tiger had called them. "They go to the river every year for the salmon run."

This creature standing in front of the ten cats was the bear they were looking for.

I know this chapter is short, but I really want to write the next few chapters. Please vote and comment and if you havn't alredy, fan me please. I will fan you in return.

Thank you so much for reading and I hoped you have had just as much as an adventure as Dawnfire has. I hope you like her name, it took me ages (well, 5 mins) to think of her name. :3

Chapter Twenty Two: Ravenpaw Becomes A Warrior

Ravenpaw carried his prey into the stone hollow. It had nearly been a quarter moon since Dawnfire and the others went off to find the creatures. But why? Why did they have to chase them away? What was so dangerous? Maybe it planned to move in round the lake or it was stealing prey. He had no clue, but soon they would be back ... hopefully.

"Ravenpaw!" A proud voice came from under the highledge. It was Salem, he was just a dark blob in the shadows with his amber eyes the only things actually visible. Salem was in charge of his training now that Foxclaw had gone on the mission with Dawnfire. Frostflower and Greynose too. That only left three warriors and four apprentices.

"Nice catch." The dark warrior called. "Redstar talked to me this morning about your warrior ceremony. You were ready two days ago, but Redstar wants you to receive your warrior name today. Foxclaw could be gone for ages and we need the warriors."

Ravenpaw quivered with excitement. "D- does that mean I'll get my warrior name today?"

"Yes." Salem replied."But you still need to do an assessment. Luckily, the weather is fine for you today. I will be watching you along with Runningshadow."

"What about Hawkpaw?"

"He can't yet, is injury has still not healed yet, it needs more time."

Hawkpaw was Ravenpaws' brother. He had injured himself by falling into the stream on the WindClan border. When he fell he couldn't get out and was carried all the way to the lake where Runningshadow fished him out. He had hit his shoulder off a rock

and dislodged the bone. He would be doing his assessment today then as well if it wasn't for the injury.

"Wait, do I do it now?" Ravenpaw asked.

"Yes. On you go, Runningshadow is waiting for you. Hunt by the Sky Oak and stay round that area."

Ravenpaw barley heard his last words as he dashed through the thorn barrier. He headed towards the ShadowClan border. As her ran he noticed the leaves on the trees were turning orange. An idea to hunt from the trees popped into his head. *Worth a try.* He clawed his way up a horse chestnut. As he climbed he noticed the large branches of the Sky Oak.

A while passed by the time he noticed some prey. A squirrel was nibbling on a nut. He quietly moved across the branch. It swayed a bit under his weight but it didn't make a sound. He heard a sound a bit like a twig snapping and a chestnut fell out of the tree and landed beside the squirrel, its spiky green shell breaking in two. The squirrel spooked but didn't run away, only dropped its nut and began investigating the chestnut that had fallen from his tree.

Phew! He thought to himself. \he used this time to think about his landing. The squirrel stopped sniffing the horse chestnut and went back to its previous nut. *Its now or never!* He told himself. He leaped down from the tree gracefully , not making a sound and landed squarely on the squirrel. He gave it a quick bite on the back of the neck and he felt it go limp.

He put his prey under a hazel thicket to be collected later. Another idea came to him as he stared at the gnarled roots of the Sky Oak. Squirrels like nuts, so why not make the nuts fall from the trees. Hopefully it didn't make the prey scare away but it was worth a try. He quickly scrambled up a beech tree. The best nuts were at the top, but cats can injure themselves if they fall and he didn't want that to happen.

He climbed onto a branch, his claws unsheathed for grip and began to shake. He shook the branch untill he heard the sound of nuts falling from the tree. It was as if it was raining, only the drops were

very large.

He studied the ground. Plenty of nuts, but also leaves had fallen onto the ground, which would provide cover for smaller prey which he could hunt. He jumped out the tree and ran to the cover of the bracken.

it didn't take long before he noticed a vole nibbling on a beech nut. He let it eat its nut, luring it into a false sense of security. It was almost finished its nut when he pounced on it. He gave it a bite to the neck and it was dead. He put it beside his squirrel and noticed a pair of pleased blue eyes peering from a holly bush.

I'll hunt round the roots of the Sky Oak so more prey can get a chance to find the nuts I left. He thought. Plus, the Sky Oak will have acorns. More trees produced nuts than he thought. Most prey in their territory relied on the nuts and seeds for their food.

He spotted a blackbird, pecking about looking for worms. Quick as a flash he pounced and killed it with a swift break to the neck. *This assessment is easy!* He thought to himself. Some cats were unlucky to have to do their assessment in bad weather.

"Nicely caught." A voice rumbled from above him. He looked up to see a pair of amber eyes shining with admiration at his work.

"You do know that I can tell weather its you or Runningshadow. Next time try to pick cats with the same eye colour to watch the assessment." He teased.

Salems' yellow eyes sparkled with amusement. "Get back to hunting. and I saw your trick with the beech nuts. Very impressive."

Ravenpaw was very surprised at Salem's praise. He never praised lightly. He was a proud and dignified warrior who never thought about anything accept defending his Clan.

Salem's amber eyes disappeared and Ravenpaw heard a light thump of paws on the ground. "Try to catch me a fish." He challenged. "I havn't had one in ages."

"But fish is RiverClan prey." Ravenpaw protested.

"All cats can eat fish. If its on our side of the lake it doesn't matter." Salem mewed padding away.

Once he was gone Ravenpaw focused on his task. He went back to the beech tree and spotted another vole eating a beech nut. He crept forward, keeping his tail low. Oops, a bit too low! The vole spooked and darted to the safety of its burrow. He chased after it but was too slow.

He flicked his ears in annoyance.

"Don't worry about it." The soft voice came from Runningshadow. "Leave the vole, try to catch that fish for Salem."

Ravenpaws' stoach lurched. She had seen his chat with Salem. "i'm sorry. I didn't mean to talk to him. He talked first."

"Its fine. Now go!" She replied.

Ravenpaw scampered off to the lake shore. He went right down to the waters edge and looked at his refection.

Suddenly his reflection turned into a raven swooping across the lake, the black bird glided across the lake picking up a fish as it went, its reflection shimmering across the lake. It came to the shore and dropped the fish at the waters edge and disappeared.

He shook his head. It was quite warm, maybe the heat was getting to him. He was about to catch a fish when he saw something silver shinning on the shore a few fox-lengths away. He padded over to it. The fish! It was the fish the raven had caught. He dabbed it with a paw. It was real. He picked the fish up, savoring the lush taste and carried it back through the woods to camp.

He padded through the thorn barrier and saw Redstar sunning himself on the high ledge. Runningshadow was with him and Salem was sharing tongues with Mudpelt.

At least no one saw the raven. He thought gladly. He walked over to Salem who looked quite happy to see a fish coming towards him.

"Well done Ravenpaw." He mewed. Mudpelt looked quite surprised

as well.

"That's one good looking fish." Mudpelt commented.

Ravenpaw nodded his head in thanks and rushed to get the rest of his prey. He carried the squirrel and vole by the tail and left the blackbird. He was walking back when he nearly collided into Runningshadow.

"Hi Ravenpaw. I was just coming to help you. weres the rest of your prey?"

He put his catch down. "Under a hazel bush near the beech tree where I dropped the nuts." He mewed to the deputy.

"Ok, you bring that in and I'll fetch your blackbird." Without waiting for a reply, she bounded of into the forest. He picked up his prey and walked through the thorn barrier. He put his catch on the fresh-kill pile and went over to see Salem.

"Enjoying the fish?" He asked.

"It was marvelous! Thank you Ravenpaw. Here, I left you a bit." Salem mewed pushing a bit of fish over to him.

"Thank you." He mewed taking a bite. Its fresh, salty flavors spread through his mouth. Salem was right, it was marvelous!

"Nice?" Salem asked.

"More than that! It was amazing, the best thing I've ever tasted."

"Looks like someones taking a fancy to fish!" A soft voice called out from behind him. He turned to find Goldenleaf watching him. She was sitting outside the nursery with her three kits, Stormkit, Brightkit and Dapplekit. They had grown quite a bit over the past half moon.

"Its lovely, do you want a bit?" Ravenpaw asked.

"No thanks, I much prefer the forest prey."

"Can we go and see Ravenpaw?" Dapplekit asked.

"Well, wait till he's finished his meal." Goldenleaf hushed her kits.

Ravenpaw quicky finished the last bit of fish and went over to play with the three kits.

*****

"Do you Ravenpaw, promise to uphold the warrior code, and protect and defend this Can, even at the cost of your life?" Redstars' clear voice rang out through the stone hollow as he asked the ancient question, every apprentice was asked before they became a warrior.

"I do." Ravenpaw replied confidently.

"Then by the powers of StarClan I give you your warrior name. Ravenpaw, from this moment on you shall be known as Ravenshadow and we welcome you as a full warrior to ThunderClan."

"Ravenshadow! Ravenshadow!" His clanmates called out.

"Now you must sit a silent vigil will the rest of us get a good nights sleep." Redstar said to him. The rest of the cats went to their dens and Ravendshadow took his place in the middle of the clearing.

It grew dark and slightly cold but he stayed where he was.

"Ravenshadow!" A voice whispered. He whipped around looking for the cat hat had disturbed his vigil. No one was there. He sat back down.

"Ravenshadow!" there it was again. Then in front of him a cat began to appear. It was a flame coloured tom with emerald green eyes and his coat was covered with starlight.

"Under the ravens wing, the stinging nettle, the morning and the brambles, those who are chosen shall seek out dawn." He whispered before disappearing.

Ravenshadow was confused. This cat was from StarClan and he told him something.

A message! Ravenshadow thought. But what did it mean?

Chapter Twenty Three; The Fight

The cats stared in fear at the bear. The brown creature was lumbering towards them now on all fours.

"It looks like an angry giant peice of fox dung that grew legs!" Greynose joked, his voice shaky with fear.

"Greynose! This is no time to be joking around!" Foxclaw hissed sternly beside Dawnfire. She agreed with him.

"Its seen us now, we must drive it off." She yowled. "Frostflower, you take Greynose, Gorsepaw, Rippletail and Stormpelt and go round one side and attack it from there. Silverpebble, Kestrelwing, Foxclaw and Bluepaw follow me. We'll attack it from the other side."

As she gave the orders the cats fell in behind their leaders and attacked. Dawnfire pounced on the bear, paws outstretched. She unsheathed her claws and sank them deep into the bears fur. its fur was thick, thicker than a cats pelt. She managed to draw blood and the bear yowled in pain. She sank her teeth into the bears shoulder, blood oozing from the new wound she had created.

Meanwhile, Frostflower was battling with her patrol on the other side. She had her teeth sunk fairly deep into the bears ear. She could see Dawnfire fighting bravely as if all of StarClans' warriors had gone inside her. *Were we right to attack?* Frostflower thought. The bear suddenly reared up onto its hind legs and fell backwards. Rippletail was attached on the bears back, raking her hind claws across the matted brown pelt of the bear. "Rippletail, move!" Frostflower screeched. Rippletail looked up confused as Frostflower jumped of the bear, snagging a claw as she went.

Rippletail yowled with fear as the bear crashed down onto the ground, crushing Rippletail as it fell.

Chapter Twenty Four; Rippletails' Death

"Rippletail!" Silverpebble screeched. Dawnfire looked at the RiverClan warrior who was pacing up and down.

"Get the bear off her!" Dawnfire barked the order like an angry fox who'd had its tail ripped off. Foxclaw and Greynose started clawing the bear and pushing it off Rippletail. Dawnfire rushed over to help along with the others. The only cat left was Silverpebble who was still pacing with worry.

She ran her claws along the bears flank and she heard it groan. "Get off our medicine cat you filthy beast!" She growled. She had never been angrier in her life. But why? All the bear had done was crush a cat.

I guess I'm angry because I led them here, I led Rippletail here and now she has probably too lost a life. Please StarClan, let her be OK. She thought. The bear started to move. She noticed all the wounds the cats had given the bear. It was in pain but she didn't care. All she wanted was Rippletail to still be alive. She was the most important cat in this mission. They needed her to treat wounds.

The bear finally moved and Greynose dragged Rippletails body from the flattened grass.

"Rippletai?" Silverpebble asked. "Is- is she alright?"

"I don't know Silverpebble, I really don't know." Dawnfire mewed sympathetically.

Foxclaw started checking her. "I'm sorry. She is dead." He murmured sadly.

"But she has two lives!" Silverpebble protested.

"Not anymore. Remember the story of how Tigerstar died. Scourge had killed him with one blow to the stomach, ripping all his nine lives out of him at once. Well..." He didn't need to explain any more. Dawnfires' stomach lurched and she felt grief welling up inside her. She padded over to Foxclaws' side.

"Goodbye Rippletail." She mewed. "May StarClan light your way and we wish you the best. May you live young and happy forever." She suddenly felt the presence of more cats around her. A tail swished on her shoulder and she turned to see her mother Swiftleaf with Smallkit sitting sadly at her paws. A beautiful lithe tabby was standing beside Rippletail as her spirit came free.

Rippletail stod beside the tabby she-cat and looked at Dawnfire."I'm sorry Dawnfire. I never ment to let you down. This was my own fault. If only I'd gotten off the bear when Frostflower told me. But now it is my time."

Dawnfire felt the presence of the starry warriors fade until it was still Rippletail and the tabby left. Rippletail was talking to Silverpebble. "Goodbye Silverpebble. When you return, please go with Birchpaw to the Moonpool. Give him is name as a full medicine cat."

"But, I'm not supposed to go to the Moonpool." She stammered.

"I know, but I have given you permission. Goodbye." Rippletail whispered the last word before she faded.

Everyone sat in silence for what seemed like moons. The sun stretched over the sky until it was almost dusk. Clouds gathered and a steady rain began to fall as if StarClan too was grieving for the young she-cat. Bluepaw and Greynose went to find cover. After a while, the rest joined them until it was only Dawnfire and Silverpebble left sitting in the rain. It was dark and the rain was falling heavier now but she didn't care. She began to groom herself, the water coming off her pelt was enough to quench a Clans' thirst.

"Dawnfire," Greynose mewed quietly coming to sit beside her. "I know your sad about Rippletail, but its night time now, you need rest." His amber eyes were filled with concern. She shook her head

and pushed him away. She wanted to keep a silent vigil for Rippletail and Silverpebble was clearly doing the same.

"Ok, I understand." She could tell he was a bit hurt by her resentfulness, but a warrior deserves a vigil. even if that warrior was a medicine cat.

*****

The rain eased off as dawn came and most of the clouds had cleared. Dawnfires stomach growled with hunger and she realised that she hadn't eaten for two sunrises.

Silverpebble was beside her, lying with her nose buried into her old clanmates drenched fur. Dawnfire had pressed herself against the silver she-cat in an attempt to comfort her, but also to share body heat. they had both stayed awake all night surprisingly.

"Its alright now." Dawnfire mewed. "Its dawn. I'm sure she saw our vigil and is proud you stayed awake for her."

Silverpebble just nodded in agreement but stayed where she was. Dawnfire padded over to the holly bush where Greynose was sleeping. She woke him up. He sat bolt upright catching his head on the sharp leaves of the holly bush.

"Fox dung!" he muttered. Dawnfire let out a small *purr* of amusement. He pressed his muzzle into her fur. She drank in his familiar scent.

"I'm sorry." She whispered.

"What for?" He asked pulling away.

"For last night. I didn't to push mean you away. I just wanted to kept vigil for Rippletail."

"Its fine. I understand." He muttered sadly. She could tell he was upset about Rippletail as well.

She pushed her muzzle into his. "I'm just glad it wasn't you." she whispered to him.

"Me too." He replied.

"Is it alright if you start on her grave?" She asked. He nodded and padded away to talk to Silverpebble.

Dawnfire suddenly got the feeling she was being watched. She turned to see Foxclaw staring at her but he turned away and continued to talk to Frostflower. Was that sadness she saw in his eyes? And why?

He's probably still sad about Rippletail. She thought, but her senses told her it wasn't that. It was something else, but she couldn't quite figure it out.

What was it he was thinking?

_____

Ohhh! Cliff-hanger!! Don't worry your paws off. I'm still writing more! :3

May StarClan light your path!!!

Chapter Twenty Five; The Journey Home

Greynose was preparing cats to dig Rippletails grave beside the river and Frostflower was beside him orginising hunting parties.

"Foxclaw and Gorsepaw, you two will be the first to help me dig the grave." He was saying.

"OK, Kestrelwing, Bluepaw and Stormpelt can help me with hunting then." Frostflower mewed.

Greynose was about to start digging up soil when Silverpebble stopped him. "She doesn't deserve to be buried here!" She snarled. "We would be leaving her behind."

"No we wouldn't." Greynose assured her. "She has made her way to StarClan. You saw it for yourself."

"I'm not leaving her!" The RiverClan warrior spat. "She is coming home with us, her spirit may have gone but we can still take her body."

"How in StarClans' name are we going to drag a body back? Home is three days away. I'm sorry Silverpebble, we ave to leave her." Foxclaw mewed softly.

"If she stays, I stay!" The silver warrior proclaimed. Dawnfire was not going to leave Silverpebble behind. Then RiverClan would have no one to welcome home.

"Silverpebble, you are coming home with us!" Dawnfire told her. "If you want us to carry Rippletail home then we will."

The others looked surprised and some gave her an angry glare as if to say "*I'm not going to carry it."* Silverpebble gave her a look of gratitude.

"At least you understand." She whispered. Dawnfire did understand. If Greynose had died, she would want his body brought back to ThunderClan.

"Frostflower, we'll hunt on the way. If we're bringing home Rippletail then we have no tim to waste. Silverpebble and Stormpelt, could you carry her please?" The two cats nodded and they heaved Rippletail onto Stormpelts' shoulders and Silverpebble kept a firm hold on her dead clanmates scruff.

They were about to start their journey home when a growl came from behind them. Pushing their way through the brambles was two more bears, only these ones were much smaller.

"That bear we killed, it must have been a queen with kits. And these must be her kits!" Gasped Frostflower.

Dawnfire agreed. The two bear kits were sniffing around and they spotted their dead mother. They clumsily walked over to their mother and began sniffing and whimpering.

"What are we going to do?" Bluepaw asked. "We killed their mother."

"I know." Dawfire muttered. She suddenly felt bad. It was one of the worst feelings in the world. "But we need to get back quickly before our wounds become infected." Dawnfire had noticed some bretty bad claw marks on the warriors who were fighting the bear in the reach of the large creatures powerful claws.

"Lets just go." Greynose mewed. Dawnfire let Frostflower and Foxclaw ake the lead. She stayed at the back with Greynose.

"You know, I was thinking about kits." Greynose mewed.

That made Dawnfire stop suddenly. What was he getting at? "What? You mean..."

"Yeah! I was thinking that we could maybe have kits."

Dawnfire filled with pride at the thought of having kits. "When?"

"When we got back."

"Thats a bit soon don't you think?"

"I guess."

They carried on talking about kits until it was nightfall. She stopped the patrol and allowed them to hunt. She caught a fish for her and Greynose to share. Frostflower and Foxclaw weresharing a rabbit. The four warriors sat together and shared tongues. It felt more like home and for a while, Dawnfire forgot all about the bear and her kits, and Rippletails' death.

She decided it was time to sleep and now that she thought about it, she was exaushted from sitting her vigil and travelling all day.

She put her head on her paws and fell into a deep sleep.

she opened her eyes and found herself in a starlit clearing.

"Under a ravens wings, the stining nettlle, the morning and the brambles, those chosen shall seek out dawn." A voice whispered. She suddenly saw infront of her a black tom sitting bolt upright in a somewhat familiar clearing. The image faded and was replaced with the image of a brown and black tom in a pine forest. It was quickly replaced with the image of a small pale grey she-cat sitting by the lakes edge and then it was replaced yet again with the image of a pale brown she cat fishing in a river.

Then it faded and she saw her mother padding softly towards her. "We didn't know you'd be going home this early. But the raven, nettle, the morning and brambles will still come."

"Wha-?" She was cut short by Swiftleaf hushing her.

"There is no meaning to this. You shall meet them at the forest where you shall meet someone very special."

"Who?"

"I cannot tell you yet young one." Swifleaf mewed fadin into the shadows.

Chapter Twenty Six; The Sky

Dawnfire woke with a start. The words 'the sky' kept ringing in her head.

"Are you alright?" Frostflower asked, her blue eyeswere filled with concern.

"I'm fine, theres a forest near here if you want to hunt." Dawnfire replied. The thought of fresh-kill made her stomach growl.

She heard a purr of amusment from behind her and she turned to see Greynose looking at her. "Your stomach growls louder than the bear did!" He joked.

"Hey!" She protested trying to sound offended.

"Come on, lets hunt like you suggested. I'll go and tell the others." Frostflower mewed.

Dawnfire nodded and her and Greynose headed towards the trees. Most of them were birch trees, now turning brown and gold for the upcoming leaf-fall.

She stalked through the grass searching for the scents of prey. Before long, she spotted a squirrel nibbling on a beechnut. She crep forward keeping her tail low, she wriggled her haunches and pounced. She landed on the squirrel killing it with a swift blow to the neck.

She walked back to the edge of the forest and waited for Greynose. He was back momments later with a starling. They were about to head back when the other cats joined them.

"Thats one big squirrel!" Bluepaw commented as she bounded into the undergrowth.

"Lets venture deeper and see if we can find more prey." Kesrelwing mewed. Dawnfire noticed that Silverpebble was nowhere to be seen.

"Wheres Silverpebble?" She asked.

"Still by the river. She doesnt want to leave Rippletail incase a fox or something gets her. Plus, she doesnt want forest prey." The WindClan warrior answered.

Of course! Dawnfire thought. "OK, I'm sure she'll be fine."

"Yeah. She should be. I'll bring her a mouse aswell." He mewed.

Dawnfire led them deeper into the forest. "Right, lets hunt, but make it quik. We don't want to leave Silverpebble on her own for to long."

The cats seperated to find good hunting spots. Sunlight poked through the trees turning the clearing brilliant colours of golds and oranges. A scent hit her nose, strange but yet familiar....

Cats!

She whipped around, searching the clearing. Greynose noticed her reaction.

"Whats wrong?" He asked with concern. "Did StarClan send you a message?"

"No, I scented something. I- I think its cats."

"What? Maybe you smelt the others."

"No, it smelt like cats but I didn't recognise the scents."

She stood up and gave a good sniff.

"Are you looking for me?" Asked a smooth voice. Dawnfire turned and saw a pair of deep green eyes staring at her from accross the clearing. Dawnfire stalked over until she was half-way across the clearing. "Well, are you?" It asked again. Dawnfire hesitently nodded. The cat rised up from the bushed. It was a beautiful tortoiseshell and white she-cat. Her eyes were a briliant deep green. "My name is Emeraldeyes. Whats yours?"

Dawnfire blinked. Her name was so much like a Clan cats name. "M- my name is Dawnfire." She mummered. "And that is Greynose." She mewed flickering her tail toward her mate. Before she could say anymore, Frostflower and the others padded calmly out the undergrowth, their jaws laden with prey. Some of them stopped dead when the saw the pretty tortoiseshell.

"Who is that?" Frostflower asked challengingly.

"I am Emeraldeyes." She replied to the white warrior. "I found Dawnfire and Greynose here with prey, and I saw all of you going off to hunt."

"Why is she so observant?" Whispered Gorsepaw. Dawnfire silenced him with a stren look.

"You have come onto my territory." Emeraldeyes carried on. There was no hostility in her voice.

"Your territory?" Bluepaw asked. "I didn't smell any scent markers."

"That is because we have no need for them."

"We? Its only you." Bluepaw mewed.

"I am from SkyClan and you are on SkyClan territory."

Chapter Twenty Seven; The Forgotten Clan

All the cats stared at Emeraldeyes in awe. SkyClan was the lost Clan, forgotten and driven from it's home many, many, many seasons ago. Long beofre the Great Journey. She had heard nursery tales of Firestar and Sandstorm travelling to save SkyClan and make it a Clan again.

"SkyClan." Frostflower breathed. "I don't believe it."

"What do you mean you don't beleive it?" Emeraldeyes asked.

"We are from the other Clans." Dawnfire mewed quickly.

"The other Clans?" The SkyClan warrior asked, somewhat interested. "I've been told of them."

"We have been told of SkyClan. I live in ThunderClan and so does Greynose." Dawnfire mewed.

"ThunderClan....." Emeraldeyes breathed. "What are the others again?"

"RiverClan, WindClan and ShadowClan." Frostflower mewed.

"I'm sorry, I need to take you to see Tanglestar."

"Is that your leader?" Gorsepaw asked.

"Well obviously mouse-brain!" Bluepaw hissed playfuly cupping the WindClan apprentice over the ear.

"Yes he is our leader. He will be most interested to hear about the four Clans." Emeraldeyes said. She led them through the forest. The scents of cats became much stronger. The SkyClan scent was almost llike ThunderClans'. They stopped at what looked like a tunnel, formed by willows and shrubery. Beside the enterance was a river.

It must leade to the river we were following. Dawnfire thought, but she didnt remember passing any other rivers.

"There is a large pond not far from here." Emeraldeyes mewed as if she had read Dawnfires' thoughts. "If you follow it, the river leads to the pond.

They padded through the tunnel of shrubs and willows and the ground sloped down. They entered a clearing which was a large dip out of the earth. There were some bushes that provided shelter and also a few old badger sets and fox dens. *Like WindClan.* She thought. At the far end of the camp was a tall rock that she guessed was where their leader addressed them at Clan meetings. Cats came out to look at them, their eyes were filled with curiosity rather than hostility like cats got for entering another Clans' camp.

Emeraldeyes told them to wait there while she darted into a den. Dawnfire had a good look at the cats. They varied in size and shape, some were large and muscular like ThunderClan cats and others were lithe, agile cats like WindClan.

She heard paws behind her and saw Emeraldeyes exiting an old badger set with a fluffy tabby tom. His green gaze sweap over Dawnfire and the others. "Welcome to our camp." He mewed friendly to them. "Let all of those who are able to fight and hunt for SkyClan join here beneath the sacred rock for a Clan meeting." He yowled. Most of the cats were already gathered. Questions were flying around camp like flies.

"Who are they?"

"Have they joined SkyClan?"

"They have stolen prey!" An elderly voice croaked.

"Are they going to attack?"

"Are they here for my kits?" A frantic voice of a queen wailed out.

"Calm down." Their leader ordered. "These cats are from the other four Clans."

Shocked mummers rippled through the crowd.

"I am Tanglestar, leader of SkyClan. Who might you be?" He asked the cats.

"I am Dawnfire of ThunderClan." She mewed. "From ThunderClan is also Foxclaw, Frostflower and Greynose." She mewed sweaping her tail over the three ThunderClan warriors.

"I am Stormpelt from ShadowClan and this is Bluepaw. She is also from ShadowClan." Stormpelt called from beside Frostflower.

"My name is Kestrelwing and he is Gorsepaw. We are from WindClan. This is..." He trailed off. "Wheres Silverpebble? Oh wait, I remember. Silverpebble is from RiverClan. She is still be the river at the edge of the forest. Her clanmate Rippletail died and-" Frostflower cut him off before he could say any more.

"I see. Where do the four Clans live then?"

"We live around a lake about two days travel away from here. There is a river, not far from the edge of the forest, if you follow that towards the setting sun then you should find us." Frostflower mewed.

"OK, I hear you wership StarClan aswel." Tanglestar asked.

"Yes we do."

"Very well. I can see you want to get back to your friend. I notice you had a spot at hunting."

Dawnfire shuffled her paws uneasily. They had stolen prey from the long lost SkyClan.

"Its fine. This forest is probably large enough for all five Clans!" Tanglestar joked. "Even in leaf-bare the hunting is marvelous."

"But green-leaf is wonderful. We can have at least three meals a day!" Called a tom from the back.

"It is wonderful for herbs aswel." Mewed a slender pale brown tom.

She guessed he was their medicine cat.

"How do they manage in leaf-bare?" Bluepaw asked in disbaleif.

"StarClan knows!" Dawnfire muttered. Tanglestar dissmissed them with a flick of his tail.

Emeraldeyes came up to them. "Well, I guess I'll show you roound. Wait, you have scratches!" She yelped.

"What? Its normal." Foxclaw mewed to the scared SkyClan she-cat. "Haven't you ever seen claw marks or scars before?"

"What do you mean normal?"

"The Clans are enemies. We fight over prey, territories, heck even kits if their half-Clans."

"Around here, we dont't really have enimies. Accept for foxes. We have a border with foxes." The tortoiseshell shuddered. "Sometimes cats fight amonst each other but only a few scratches are found and not much blodd is spilt. We will fight Twolegs and their dogs if we have too but they never bother."

"OK, but can we get going, we need to get back." Greynse mewed impatiently.

"OK, follow me." She trotted over to a large bramble bush. "This is the warriors den." She mewed. "Hello Thundersky." She greeted a large grey tom. He poked his head out.

"Hello," He mewed. "I am Thundersky. That cat over ther is Wildfur." He poined to a lite brown tom. His fur was sticking out in all different directions as if he never groomed it. He poked his head up at the sound of his name. "Sorry Wildfur. Didn't mean to wake you. Hes got a sprained paw you see so he's resting. He also likes to rest."

Emeraldeyes purred in amusement. But there was something else in her gaze. As she stared a Thundersky she noticed feeling, deeper than just friends. It was the same gaze that Greynose had used they day she found out he loved her. Did Thundersky see it too?

"Anyway, lets go. Over here is the apprentices den." She mewed padding over to a large shrub. Inside was one cat, a tom. He was a small tabby. "This is Tigerpaw." Emeraldeyes mewed. Tigerpaw! An evil name back at home. Tigerstar used to be a 'paw'. Did Tigerpaw of SkyClan know he had the same name as a trecherous cat? She shook the thought away. Of course he wouldn't know.

"Hi," Tigerpaw mewed shakily.

"Are you alright?" Emeraldeyes asked with concern.

"Yeah, I'm fine. I'm just tired thats all. And a bt shocked that the nursery stories were true."

"Its fine. I didn't know SkyClan lived so close." Dawnfire mewed stroking her tai over his pelt. He flinched at her touch but he calmed down moments after.

"His mother Cloudleaf died less than a moon ago." A voice whispered in her ear. It was Thundersky. She nodded her head in understandment.

"Can I talk to Tigerpaw in private please?" Dawnfire asked. Her companions looked a bit shocked that she would ask to spend some time alone with a cat she had just met, but she was going to try help him ease his pain. They nodded and Tigerpaw followed her into the willow tunnel.

"I'm Dawnfire." She mewed.

"Yeah, I know." He muttered.

"I know why your sad."

"How?"

"Thundersky told me."

"Oh yeah, he spreads everything around camp as if it were a forest fire." Tigerpaw hissed. "When I was a kit I lost my brother. Now as an apprentice I have lost my mother. My father is a rouge and I have no family left atall."

"Look, when I was born two leaf-bares ago, my mother had greencough. It weakened her while she gave birth to me and my littermates. She died two days after because of it. My brother was the smallest out of three and was called Smallkit. He died shortly after my mother. Only me and my sister remained. My father was leader of ThunderClan and still is. But I just wanted to tell you that your not the only one."

"S- so you have been motherless all your life?"

"Yes. And I'm one of ThunderClans greatest warriors!" She joked.

"I'm sure your a good warrior." He had obviously guessed that was a joke by the tone of her voice. It seemed to have cheered him up a bit.

"Thank you Dawnfire." He mewed. They padded back into camp. Emeraldeyes was still showing them around.

"..... He's our medicine, oh Dawnfire your back. I was showing them round while you were gone. I only did the nursery," She poined with her tail to an old fox den with a thing of lichen to stop wind getiing in. "Flowerstone is in there just now nursing two kits if you want to see."

"I'll go when your done." She replied. Emeraldeyes nodded and carried on.

"This is the elders den." The pretty tortoiseshell mewed. "Hello Bramblesnag. I would like you introduce you to the Clan cats." She mewed entering a tunnel.

"Ahh yes. Greetings young warriors from the four Clans." Bramblesnag rasped. His brown fur was ruffled

"Who's that?" Bluepaw asked looking at a grey tom.

"That is Rockpaw. He is blind so he lives here with Bramblesnag." Emeraldeyes mewed sadly. "Thats it then I guess. I'll leave you here to talk to my clanmates while I take Dawnfire to see the nursery."

Emeraldeyes led Dawnfire to another burrow, "We keep the elders

and the queens underground where it is safest and warmest. The medicine cat and leaders dens are underground too. Only the warriors and apprentices remain above."

Dawnfire nodded. The tortoiseshell she-cat led Dawnfire into the nursery. She was greeted by the warm smell of milk that wold forever remind her of her mother Swiftleaf.

"This is Flowerstone and her kits Sandkit and Rainkit." Emeraldeyes told her.

The sandy coloured she-cat, the one she presumed was Sandkit came scampering over to her. "Your one of those wierd cats arn't you?" She asked.

"Hush Sandkit!" A pretty pale ginger tabby scodled the little kit. "I'm sorry about Sandkit."

"Its fine. I'm Dawnfire and you must be Flowerstone."

The ginger tabby nodded.

"Dawnfire!" She heard Frostflowers voice from outside.

"I have to go. It was nice meeting you." Dawnfire mewed as she padded out the nursery.

"We need to go. Silverpebble is probably worried about us." Frostflower mewed hurredly.

"OK, lets go. Goodbye Emeraldeyes." Dawnfire called as they walked out of the willow tunnel that led to the SkyClan camp.

Chapter Twenty Eight; The Journey Continues

The cats trekked back through the forest toward the river. As the trees thinned out, Dawnfire noticed Silverpebble who's fur was spiked up in all directions. She was standing protectively over Rippletails' body. As the cats emerged, Silverpebble turned to look at them, fear raging through her blue eyes but once she recognised them she somewhat relaxed.

"Silverpebble, are you OK?" Frostflower asked rushing forward. "Here, have my mouse. I can see you havn't eaten."

"I don't-" Silverpebble started.

"No, you havn't eaten anything since Rippletail died. She wouldn't want you to die. You have a future."

"And so did Rippletail." Silverpebble hissed. Dawnfire could tell Frostflower was taken aback by the fierceness in the RiverClan warriors mew but Frostflower kept coaxing her. "Fine, I'll eat your mouse."

As Silverpebble began to eat, Bluepaw approached her. "Are you alright Bluepaw?" She asked.

"I'm fine, its Kestrelwing I'm worried about." Bluepaw answered sounding concerned.

"What? Why?"

"Ever since Rippletail died he has been fussing over Silverpebble, trying to get her to eat and even catching prey for her. Didn't you hear him this morning? He said that *he* would catch prey for her."

Dawnfire thought back to this morning. Bluepaw was right. She could vaguely remember Kestrelwing saying that he would catch

prey for Silverpebble.

"I- I think he likes her." Bluepaw whispered.

Dawnfire bit back a purr of laughter. Bluepaw was probably right. "I think so too!" She joked.

Bluepaw nodded her head and padded away to join Stormpelt and Gorsepaw. Dawnfire found Foxclaw and Greynose sitting beside each other tucking into some prey and Frostflower was soothing Silverpebble. She found Kestrelwing sitting a little way off staring at Silverpebble with his ears pricked as he ate his rabbit.

Dawnfire padded round behind him. "You know its not nice to stare *and* eavesdrop!" She hissed at him. He jumped up and turned around. She had obviously gave him a fright.

"I- I wasn't staring ... I- I- I was j- just um ... observing." He stammered.

"Observing huh? That's as bad as staring. Just remember where your loyalties lie." She mewed sternly.

He nodded pretending to look confused and began to eat his meal again. Dawnfire joined Greynose and kept her eye on Kestrelwing.

"You OK?" Greynose asked making her jump.

"Y- yeah, why?"

"You just seem tense that's all." He mewed to her. She looked at him and felt her heart burst with love for him.

"I- I was just ...." She coudn't tell him about Kestrelwings' divided loyalties and Frostflowers' half-Clan heritage.

"What?" He asked. "You were what?"

"I- I can't say." She mewed.

He looked at her and stood up. "Well, when you can decide where your loyalties lie and who you love, come and tell me." He growled

and turned to walk away.

"Greynose wait I-"

"Yeah, it was the same with all the other cats who loved cats in a different Clan. 'Oh I didn't mean to, I didn't know, we're just friends.' Its always the same. And its not the first time I've seen you mooning over a tom from a different Clan." He spat.

Dawnfire lay there with horror as she watched her 'mate' walk away. Grief swelled up making her feel horrible. He thought she was with cats from another Clan. What other toms did he refer to? She thought back to days when she was around toms, gatherings, border patrols. That was it. Now he thought she was with Kestrelwing. She walked over to Kestrelwing.

"Thanks a lot!" She hissed through gritted teeth.

"f- for what?" He stammered.

"Your little stare cost me my mate!"

"How?" He asked in disbelief.

"I was keeping an eye on you and now he thinks that *I'm* the disloyal one." She growled As she stared at him she saw Greynose looking at her. She felt horrible. Greynose turned away but she was so sure that she saw regret in his eyes. She ignored his reply and walked away.

Greynose

As he walked away from Dawnfire, immediate guilt swept over him. He realised that he had underestimated her. Of course she wouldn't break the warrior code! It was Dawnfire, she was loyal!

He sat down under a bramble bush and started to groom his messed up grey fur. He realised that he hadn't groomed himself for days now. As he was grooming his ruffled pelt he caught sight of Dawnfir talking to Kestrelwing. Anger filled his mind and he wanted to rip the WindClan warriors fur out. *How dare he take from me!* He thought but he soon realised that she was angry. Her fur was fluffed

up and her green eyes gave it away.

She had obviously seen him and he caught her eye but he quickly turned away. *How could I? I love her but I've probably hurt her with what I said.*

"Come on. You should have all stopped eating by now. We need to travel while there is still sunlight." Dawnfire called out. The sun shone on her fur, making her eyes sparkle and making her look more beautiful. He loved her.

The cats gathered behind Dawnfire and Greynose went to help Silverpebble with Rippletails' body. Normally he would walk side by side with her but he thought it was best not to. She probably didn't want to speak to him any way.

Dawnfire

She led the cats following the river. They would be home soon, hopefully. She walked beside Frostflower, their pelts brushing.

"Dawnfire, are you alright?" She asked whispering into Dawnfires' ear.

"What? Oh ... uh, yeah. Yeah I'm fine." She replied trying not to give away what had happened with Greynose.

"I can clearly tell that every things not fine. Dawnfire, look. I'm your best friend. You can tell me anything."

"I will. But not right now."

Frostflower nodded and stayed quiet. By the time Dawnfire let them rest it was almost moonhigh. She had heard them complaining about being tired but she wanted to get home.

"I'm sorry guys but we are carrying a dead body. We need to get home soon." She had told them. They just nodded and went off into groups for the night. When she was sure no one was listening she beckoned for Frostflower to follow her. The two she-cats padded alongside the river. "It should be fine here." She mewed.

"Right then. What is it?"

"M- me and Greynose. We ...."

"What?" Frostflower asked without giving her a chance. "What about you and Greynose? He hasn't hurt you has he?"

"Well, he thought I was with Kestrelwing."

"What? Why, your loyal. You woldn't. How could he think that? Wait, does that mean your not mates anymore?"

"Pretty much. I was watching Kestrelwing because he was eavesdropping on you and Silverpebble and he has feelings for Silverpebble." She answered quickly. Dawnfire felt so sad. She was really upset. How could he think that she would love a cat from another Clan?

"Oh just wait till I get my paws on him." Frostflower growled, her fur fluffing up.

"No, no, no." Dawnfire mewed. "Leave him. I'm sure he didn't mean to,"

"Didn't mean to? Dawnfire, what mate says your disloyal because you were watching a cat from another Clan to protect another cats loyalty for a joke?" Frostflower hissed.

"Well, I um..."

"Exactly! Dawnfire, I'm going to have a word with him." Before Dawnfire could do anything, Frostflower padded away in search for Greynose.

Frostflower

She couldn't believe what she had heard. Greynose thought Dawnfire was with a WindClan warrior. She ran back to the clearing and found Greynose eating a small shrew by himself. He deserves it! She thought. She marched up to him.

"What?" He asked. His voice was full of sadness.

"How could you think that Dawnfire was disloyal. *Dawnfire?*"

"I didn't mean to-" He started.

"Oh yeah, sure! You have hurt her. She is so upset with you!" She hissed.

"Frostflower please just let me explain." Greynose pleaded.

"Whats happening?" A voice asked. Frostflower turned to see Foxclaw. She couldn't think of him ever doing that to her.

"Greynose has left Dawnfire because he thought she was being disloyal."

"What?" Foxclaw asked, his eyes filling with rage.

"Foxclaw..?" She asked, suddenly concerned for her mate.

"How dare you hurt her. I thought you would be fine for her but it turns out I was wrong. I never should of left her. She wouldn't of had to go through the pain twice!" He snarled and walked away.

"Foxclaw? What do you mean?" She asked but he ignored her.

"What did he mean?" She hissed turning around to face Greynose. he grey warrior was flattened to the ground in fear.

"I- I don't know." He replied shakily.

Frostflower hissed and went to find her mate.

Chapter Twenty Nine; Not Again

Dawnifre opened her eyes and found herself in the Dark Forest Once again. *Oh great StarClan!* She thought. She started to think that Tigerstar really did want something from her.

"Welcome back Dawnfire." A sniggering voice rasped from behind her. She turned around to see a tortoiseshell she-cat glaring at her.

"What do you want now?" Dawnfire growled.

"I'm not the one who wants you, he is." The tortoiseshell cat mewed flickering her tail towards Tigerstar. He stepped out of the bushed with and emotionless gaze. She noticed he had wound and one of his eyes was scratched out.

"You see this?" He hissed shoving his muzzle into her face. "You and your lousy friend did this.If you accepted power, then you wouldn't have to come back here!"

"Frostflower?"

"Yes."

Dawnfires' heart lurched. He had tried to gain power through her best friend. This enraged her. "How dare you hurt her!" She hissed. She noticed that the tortoiseshell she-cat was no longer there.

"Calm down Dawnfire, *she* did this to me!"

Dawnfire felt a spark of pride that Frostflower had attacked him.

"And now Dawnfire, *you* are going to pay."

"W- what do you mean?

"*You* are going to die because of Frostflower and no StarClan

warriors can help you now." He hissed.

"No-"

"To late!"

Dawnfires' heart raced with fear. She wanted to run, run away where no one would find her, but Tigerstar knew the Dark Forest better than her.

Tigerstar drew closer, "Stay away from me." Danwifre yowled as the big tabby tom leaped at her,

"You are going to die Dawnfire." He hissed in her ear. "You are going to feel the pain that I have felt."

"No!" She cried. "I will-" Her words were cut off as Tigerstar clawed at her muzzle.

She bit down on his paw as it passed. He yanked it away only to make the wound bigger. He glared at Dawnfire and tried to jump on her back but Dawnfire quickly slid under him, grazing her claws along his stomach. He yowled and stumbled. Dawnfire used the time to jump on top of him. She bit down hard into is ear and raked her back claws along his pelt. She used her front claws to attack his face, trying to get his other eye.

Tigerstar ducked his head and rolled onto the ground, squashing Dawnfire. She gasped for breath and went limp, not moving a muscle or daring to breath. She felt him relax and she pushed him off with her hind legs. He landed a few fox-lengths away and lay there winded.

She tried to jump onto of him again but he moved out of the way. He clawed her side as he passed making her stumble. He pinned her to the ground, digging his claws into her shoulder. She got a good look at his eye. It was torn and bloody, and scratches were all around his eye. She tried to kick him off but he was to strong.

"Now die!" He hissed. Dawnfire trembled with fear. *I'm going to die. I'm going to die! Your not going to die! Yes I am.* "Dawnfire. Use the fire within." A voice whispered. It was Swiftleaf. She snapped back

into life just in time to see Tigerstar gaining on her neck with his teeth bared. She dodged his killing blow and using all her power threw him off. She jumped onto him and aimed a killing blow to his neck. She felt her teeth pierce skin and she tasted the saltiness of his blood.

"G- get off." He hissed. She shook her head keeping a firm hold of Tigerstars neck. As she did so, it caused more blood to ooze from his wound. He scrambled his legs, clawing at Dawnfire but she would not let go. Her sides burnt as Tigerstar thrashed around wildly under her as he clawed her. She could feel him weakening but he was still stronger.

He managed to tare free of her but his wound was weakening him.

"Dawnfire!" A voice gasped. She turned to see Frostflower. "I heard you and I tried to find you but I couldn't but now I have and..." The white warrior mewed in a rush.

"Frostflower." Tigerstar growled. It caused more blood to ooze out his neck. "L-lo- look wha- what y- you have done. T- to me an- and to yo- your fri- frien- friend."

"I don't care what I have done to you!" She yowled and threw herself at Tigerstar.

"Frostflower no!" Dawnfire yelled but Frostflower was already fighting him.

"Well, well, well. Looks like we have got ourselves some fun." Growled a cat from the bracken. He stepped out. He looked a bit like Tigerstar, only slightly smaller.

"B- Brokens- star. Help m- me." Tigerstar wailed.

"That's a first!" Brokenstar hissed as he launched himself at Frostflower. Dawnfire was about to help when another tabby shot from the undergrowth.

No, its three to two now. She thought. But she noticed the ice-blue eyes of Hawkfrost and she stopped panicking.

Hawkfrost battered Brokenstar and kept a firm hold of him down on the ground. Dawnfire noticed that Frostflower was still attacking Tigerstar. She had her teeth in the other side of Tigerstars neck. Dawnfire wanted to help but she was exhausted. Hawnfrost was clawing Brokenstar. She felt hopeless. She couldn't do anything.

"Do not worry Dawnfire." Her mothers voice soothed. "You are fine. Frostflowe will not mind you staying out. Hawkfrost can come back to StarClan where his wounds will heal."

She nodded. Hopefully Swiftleaf was right. "But beware, that frost shall kill and a tiger will fall."

"What?" But Swiftleaf had dissapeared

Tigerstars yowl made her jump and she turned around to see him falling limply from Frostflowers' jaws. Brokenstar had ripped free of Hawkfrost and stared at Tigerstar in dismay.

"Tigerstar? You will pay! Dark Forest attack!" Brokenstar yowled. He leaped at Frostflower with out streached paws. He barreled into her and clawed out paw fulls of her white fur. Dawnfire leaped at him.

"Don't make me do to you what I did to Tigerstar." She hissed. Brokenstar bared his teeth at her and swiped at her with his claws unsheathed. He missed her by a whisker. She noticed more cats pouring out the bushed. So many cats had betrayed their Clans, but some were also loners that had joined ShadowClan in the time of Tigerstars' leadership. How are we going to fight all of these cats?

"Back off!" Her mother snarled. She noticed that StarClan warriors were lined up behind her and Frostflower. "The frost has killed and the tiger has fallen." Swiftleaf yowled. Dawnfire realised what it meant.

"You and your stupid proph-" A grey-and-white tom mewed but he stopped as he realised what she meant. Frostflower was the frost that kills and Tigerstar was the fallen tiger.

"You will not hurt these warriors. They have done you good in

killing Tigerstar. Now you are free. You no longer have to train under his watchful eyes. He is no longer here." Firestar mewed. The warriors of the Dark Forest looked at each other. Some were obviously shaken that such a powerful cat had been killed but some looked relieved to be away from him.

They started to pad away, looking over their shoulders occasionally as they went. Some spat harsh comments but Dawnfire ignored them. Only Brokenstar remained.

"You will pay!" He whispered.

"Brokenstar, you may go." Friestar ordered the former ShadowClan leader. The old tabby grunted and with a final glare at Dawnfire and Frostflower he turned and followed the rest of the cats.

"Thank you Frostflower. You have killed our enemy. They will be weaker without him and we can live in peace. For many moons, Tigerstar has led the Dark Forest and have tried a number of times to take over the lake. But now that he is gone we can live in peace thanks to you two. Dawnfire, you weakened him, that was good fighting and I'm impressed at how you did it."

Dawnfire bowed her head at Firestar. She hadn't expected a praise from him, after all it was Frostflower who killed him.

"Lionblaze and Swiftleaf, I believe you have some healing to do." Firestar mewed. The two cats padded out of the crown and stood before Dawnfire and Frostflower.

"This wont hurt much." Swiftleaf promised. Dawnfire nodded. Her mother bent her head and they touched noses. She felt a wave a ferocity, strength and a whole new life wave over her.

She noticed that Lionblaze had done the same to Frostflower. Dawnfire turned and looked at her pelt, it was ruffled but all the major wounds had gone.

"Goodbye." She heard the StarClan warriors mummer. They faded and left Dawnfire alone with her best friend. They curled down together and Dawnfire let sleep overcome her.

Chapter Thirty; More Secrets?

Dawnfire woke with a start. Her muscles ached as if she really did fight Tigerstar. Frostflower was already awake beside her.

"Frostflower..."

"I- I killed a cat." She breathed. Her blue eyes were as wide as the full moon.

"But it was a cat who deserved to die. He killed innocent cats so don't feel too bad."

"B- but it was still a cat."

"I know, I didn't think they could be killed again once they were dead."

Frostflower shrugged her shoulders. "Oh, yesterday when I was telling Greynose, Foxclaw came up and found out. He then said that he thought Greynose would be fine for you but he was wrong. Then he said he never should of left you so you didn't have to go through the pain twice, d- do you know what it means?"

Dawnfire swallowed. This was something that she never wanted to think about. A secret that she had buried and forgotten, until now. How could she tell?

"I uh..."

"What? I'm guessing but I don't want to..."

"Look, Frostflower, I'm sorry OK. I had hoped that it never would of come up.."

"What?"

"I don't think I should tell you."

"Please, please tell me." Frostflower pleaded. Dawnfire looked into her blue eyes, how could she say no?

"Look, when me and Foxclaw were apprentices we ... we used to be together. I knew you liked him so I didn't want to hurt you, so w-we kept it a secret. I told him we should keep it secret because we were only apprentices. Then Foxclaw got his warrior name, I noticed you were so happy. Then around two moons later, we got our warrior names and you were always saying that once you'd gotten your warrior name you wanted to be mates with Foxclaw. So one night when we went hunting I told him that it just didn't feel right. He kept trying to make me change my mind but I told him I didn't want to be his mate. I knew he was hurt, but I didn't want *you* to be hurt." She told her.

Frostflower was staring at her and Dawnfire thought she was going to be mad but Frosflower purred and licked her ear. "You didn't need to do that, I'm sure I would of found someone else, but thank you Dawnfire. Now its my turn,"

"For what?"

"A secret." She purred. Dawnfire rolled her eyes. *So many secrets!* She thought

"I'm going to have kits!" She squealed excitedly.

Dawnfire blinked. She was so happy for her. She pushed her muzzle into Frostflowers fur and purred "Congratulations."

"Thank you." Frostflower whispered back. They were cut off by the sound of a cat padding through the bracken. They pulled apart and she saw Greynose come out. His gaze softened as he saw Dawnfire.

"What?" She snapped. He seemed to be taken aback by her harshness but he was obviously used to it.

"Look ... Dawnfire I- I'm sorry." He mewed sadly. She felt her heart break.

"I'll leave you to it." Frostflower purred in amusement.

Dawnfire flickered her ears but didn't say anything

"What?" She repeated less harshly.

"I just wanted to say that I'm sorry. Its just, I love you and I wanted to protect you. I mean, j- just they way you were staring at Kestrelwing it-"

She cut him off. He was never good for words. "I understand." She replied.

"I'm really truly sorry Dawnfire. I didn't know you were watching him because of his divided loyalties. If I'd know I would not of done that."

"I know."

Greynose looked at her. "Frostflower and Foxclaw are having kits." He whispered.

"I know." She replied. She could tell he was sad because he wanted kits, they had talked about it before. "I accept your apology." She whispered.

His face lightened. "Y- you do? But are we still no longer mates?"

"If course I do, and no. We can be mates again." She was so happy to say it. She thought that her and Greynose would never be together anymore.

"I love you." He told her.

"I know, you tell me everyday."

"I love you." He repeated.

"I know! I just told you that you tell me everyday."

"But I didn't tell you yesterday did I?" He purred.

She flicked her tail across his ears and the padded into the clearing. The cats were gathered. "Dawnfire, Rippletails' body is starting to

smell funny." Bluepaw announced. Dawnfire put her muzzle into the dead medicine cats fur and felt the coldness of her body. It shocked her and she instantly pulled back but she caught a sniff of rotting flesh.

"No warrior or medicine cat deserves to have her body dragged through unknown territory for three days!" Gorsepaw hissed. Dawnfire ignored him.

"What do you think we should do?" She asked Frostflower.

"I think that we should start now, we are a day away from home do we can hunt later. Foxclaw and Greynose, could you take Rippletail please." Frostflower ordered but she then shot a look of apology at Dawnfire. She just nodded back, indication it was fine. Shee'd let Frostflower lead from now on.

"Before we go, I just want to say that Frostflower, you have done so well on this journey," And you killed Tigerstar, she added silently. "That I am letting you take over. I know we are not far but I want you to lead."

Frostflower nodded her thanks and led the patrol.

It was almost sundown. Frostflower let them stop and hunt at sunhigh.

"Look!" Bluepaw squealed excitedly. "I can see the horseplace! And the forest!"

Dawnfire strained her eyes. In the dimming light she could just make out the silhouette of the horseplace. The forest was a dark smudge behind it. She had never been so happy to see home. But then, a thought struck her, why did StarClan sent them out to fight a bear? As if one bear would be able to take over. One Can, in fact less than one Clan could kill it or drive it away.

Frostflowers excited mew brought her out of her thoughts. "Come on, lets hurry." The cats trotted after Frostflower, their eyes fixed straight ahead, ears pricked and mouths open for the scent of prey and home. They carried on and reached the thunderpath. It was

dark by now and harder to see the monsters. One went roaring past, ts eyes glowing.

"Hey look, because of their really bright eyes, we can see them from far away." Silverpebble pointed out. Dawnfire looked to see a pair of small, but growing larger eyes in the distance. They grew bigger and bigger until the monster zoomed past.

"Well spotted." Dawnfire mewed. another monster went past and Silverpebble ran across by herself. No eyes were in the distance and Greynose and Foxclaw hauled Rippletails body across the thunderpath.

Two monsters appeared on either side of the thunderpath. She noticed that their eyes dimmed as they passed each other. Clearly Frostflower had noticed it too because she said, "Maybe their eyes dim because they greet each other."

"Maybe..." Dawnfire mewed. When no monsters were in earshot, Frostflower ordered the WindClan warriors across the thunderpath. Bluepaw who Dawnfire remembered was so scared of the thunderpath, walked up confidently to its edge. Stormpelt was beside her. They pelted across the hard ground, making it to the other side before a monster showed up.

Frostflower and Dawnfire were the only ones left on the grassy edge. Frostflower looked at her, her blue eyes reflecting the moon. "Together?" Dawnfire asked.

"Always." Frostflower purred back.

The intertwined tails and when a monster zoomed past, they pelted across its hard surface. The ground made Dawnfires' pads burn, but not as much as last time she noticed. Maybe trekking through hard ground for almost a quarter moon has made them tougher.

They reached the other side and collapsed on the grass. She could smell the horses and hear their small whines from inside their den. Lights were coming from the Twoleg nests and she could see their silhouettes against the light.

Frostflower got up and Dawnfire followed. "Maybe we should stay with Tiger for the night, we cant go home now, its late and they might think we are intruders." Dawnfire mewed.

"Who's Tiger?" Frostflower asked. Dawnfire forgot that her and Foxclaw hadn't made the first part of the journey with them.

"He let us hunt in the barn when we first started. He lives in one of the Twoleg nests." Dawnfire replied. Frostflower nodded her head.

"No, I want to go home.." Gorsepaw mumbled. "I vote we should go home."

"Gorsepaw, Dawnfire wasn't asking if we wanted to or not, she is saying we should." Silverpebble mewed sternly. Dawnfire gave her a look of gratitude. Gorsepaw muttered under his breath but they ignored him.

They reached the barn. "No scent of him." Bluepaw mewed.

"I have an idea." Frostflower mewed. "How about two of us go into a Twoleg nest to look for him. I will go and so will .... Dawnfire."

"Well its obvious you'd pick a cat from your Clan." Gorsepaw hissed. Kestrelwing silenced him with a cuff over the ear.

"Foxclaw, you and Greynose are in charge. Dawnfire, me and you will scout the Twoleg nests. Come on." Dawnfire followed her to the garden of a nest. On the door, it had a funny looking flap thing, big enough for a cat to fit through. "It must be this one, look the other nest doesn't have a flap."

Dawnfire nodded, they jumped off thee fence and crept up to the door. a strong whiff of Twolegs came from the flap and the scent of cats. Tiger.

Dawnfire followed Frostflower through the flap. The nest was warm, really warm. The crept through the nest, another door was on their left, it was open. They looked in and a musky scent hit her nose. Fire! her fur spiked as she saw its hungry tongues, curling around and burning the wood.. "Frostflwer, look." Frostflower looked at the fire and her fur bristled, but then it flattened again.

"It should be fine, look, its behind a fence." She pointed out. Dawnfire felt stupid, she should of noticed that. They passed some flat rock things going up to a next level in the nest.

"Frostflower, you go look up there and I'll look down here." She whispered. Frostflower looked at her,, "Sorry, didn't mean to order, but I'll be harder to spot down here."

"OK, got it." Frostflower mewed. She shot off, up the rock ledges.

Dawnfire crept around the bottom level of the nest. She padded past another door, inside that part of the nest were two Twolegs. One was dipping its paws into water and taking stuff out while the other sat at what looked like something made from four small, thin trees with a ;large flat tree thing on top. It had a small smooth rock thing in it paw, with stuff in it that the Twoleg drank. She could smell it, a strong, bitter scent. The Twolegs were talking to each other in their weird language. She saw something moving, a cat. "Tiger!" She whispered. The cat came out from behind the Twoleg. It was a small golden she-cat with tabby stripes. *Oh no, we did get the wrong nest?* It took one look at Dawnfire and squealed in terror. It was obviously a young cat by the looks of it, no more than five moons.

"Whats going on?" A rasp called from behind her. It was Tiger.

"Tiger, we've been looking for you." Dawnfire mewed. She saw the Twolegs crouching over the golden kit, gently caressing it. The female Twoleg got up and came Dawnfires' way.

"Run, into the Living Area." Tiger hissed.

"What?" Dawnfire was confused. What in the name of StarClan was a 'living Area'? She ran and followed Frostflowers scent up the rock ledges. There were more doors. She ran through the door closest to her. Frostflower had been in here. This part of the den was cream and purple There were more wooden thins dotted around, she jumped onto something a bit like the wooden trees on the first level, but it was comfy, like her nest back home. The soft stuff had Twoleg stench all over it. She jumped off and went to find Frostflower.

As she came out the den, Frostflower exited another farther along. "I heard noises from down there," She mewed pointing with her tail towards the flat rock ledges.

"I found Tiger, a- and there is another cat, a small golden she-cat. She looks about 5 moons old." Dawnfire puffed.

"Good, but whats all the noise about?"

Before Dawnfire could answer, Tiger came up the ledges. He looked at the two she-cats, no hostility in his eyes, but curiosity. "Hello," He mewed calmly.

"Hi." Dawnfire and Frostflower said in unison. Tigers' eyes glittered with amusement.

"Well, looks like ya made it back. Where are the others?" He purred.

Dawnfire nodded to Frostflower who moved up beside her. "We have returned from the fight with the bears." She mewed. "We all made it back safely except ... except .. exc-" Frostflower stuttered. What was wrong with her? She wasn't being herself. *Maybe its the kits*. She thought, normally queens that are expecting tend to get a bit hormonal.

"We lost Rippletail." Dawnfire stepped in for her. "She died whilst the bear fell on top of her. She made it safely to StarClan though, we made sure of that. We killed the bear and left its two kits."

"Ahh, I feel sorry for your loss, but I just realised that you wern't with the cats before. Who are you?" He asked Frostflower. She looked a little upset.

"That's Frostflower, her and her mate Foxclaw came too, they were also chosen, just they made it a bit to late." Dawnfire didn't want to go into detail of what really happened. "She is expecting kits soon." Dawnfire blurted. The awkward silence needed to be broken.

"Congratulations!" Tiger purred. "But anyway, I can tell that's not what your here for. Now tell me, what do you really need?"

Hey guys! Just to let you know, I am almost finished writing this book. But don't you worry, Book 2 will be out soon. I'm in a bit of a rush. I cant wait to start it. Love ya peeps! <3

Chapter Thirty One: Home

Dawnfire had just filled herself up on juicy, plump mice. They had told Tiger of everything that happened on their trip. He listened quite contently, nodding every so often and gasping when something bad happened. Now though, she wanted to sleep. To morrow they would begin their long journeys.

She huddled up close to Greynose, feeling his warmth. She had missed it. It was only for a few nights but still. She closed her eyes, letting sleep overcome her.

She opened her eyes and found herself in a sunlit meadow, filled with flowers and prey scent. The scent of rabbit and squirrels made her mouth water.

"Well done Dawnfire." She heard a familiar voice say. It was her mother Swiftleaf. "You did well on this quest and I'm sure you will have a wonderful future."

"Thank you but, there is something I must ask." Dawnfire mewed.

"What is it?"

"Why did you send us on the trip? I mean, if the bear invaded RiverClan, they could get rid of it by themselves." She asked.

Swiftleaf looked a bit awkward, as if she didnt want to say. "Lets just say ... we did it to stop hostility between the Clans."

Dawnfire thought for a moment, it made slight sense. But why *did* they need to stop hostility between the Clans?"

"I'm sorry Dawnfire, there is no more I can say. Prophecies are like that." She nodded her head and then the dream faded. She was back in the barn, curled next to Greynose. He was already awake.

"Good morning." He mewed.

"Hi," She replied. "You ready?" She asked. He nodded his head and they got up and padded over to Frostflower who sat thinking.

"I was thinking ... maybe RiverClan and ShadowClan go one way, and us and WindClan go the other." Frostflower suggested. That could work.

"Or ... we go with them to RiverClan,explain what happened and then go back with WindClan." Dawnfire suggested.

"That or instead of travelling extra we just tell them what to say and we will tell more at the Gathering." Froostflower mewed. She got to hand it to her, Frostflower was pretty good at organizing things.

She followed Frostflower as she gathered the cats around her. "We travel home today. I decided we should go in groups of two. ShadowClan and RiverClan will take RiverClans' side of the lake and ThunderClan and WindClan will take the other. Stormpelt, could you see RiverClan home?" She asked. Stormpelt nodded. "Good. Could you also tell them a bit and say that more will be said about the journey at the Gathering."

"No problem Frostflower." He mewed.

"Good." She mewed closing her eyes. "Goodbye, you all did well on the journey. It wasn't much but I was glad to serve as your leader for the last part. I will give you time to say goodbye to friends." Frostflower mewed and she instantly went over to see Silverpebble.

"Hey Dawnfire." Stormpelts' voice mewed behind her. "Can you tell Goldenleaf that I love her. A- And tell her I am so happy our kits are OK."

"No problem. It was great traveling with you. I guess every journey makes new friends."

"Yeah. Its gonna be hard but we are warriors-"

"And apprentices!" Bluepaw hissed playfully.

"Yes. We can survive anything." Stormpelt finished.

Dawnfire purred in agreement. Frostflower came bounding over. "Stormpelt, could you help Silverpebble carry Rippletail to their camp?"

"Sure. Bluepaw, come on. We will be leaving soon." He called. The blue-grey apprentice nodded and bounded over to join him.

"I said goodbye for you to Silverpebble." Frostflower mewed quietly. Dawnfire nodded her thanks. Her paws were itching to be home.

Greynose, Foxclaw and the WindClan warriors joined them to see the others off. Once they vanished behind the reeds, Frostflower led them towards the WindClan camp. No one talked much throughout the journey, but Kestrelwing and Gorsepaws eyes brightened up as they saw rabbits bounding along the moor.

Not far into the moor they were stopped by a patrol of four cats. "Dawnfire!" The tom infront mewed happily. It was Ravenpaw.

"Ravenpaw!" Foxclaw exclaimed in delight. "What are you doing on WindClan territory with ... a RiverClan, ShadowClan and WindClan cat?"

"Actually, my name is Ravenshadow. I was mad a warrior a few days ago." He mewed. "Come here and sit. I'll explain everything..."

Ravenshadow told them about his vision of him being a raven. He told them about his dream the prophisised Under the ravens wing, the stinging nettle, the morning and the brambles, those who are chosen shall seek out dawn. "I met Nettlefoot on a patrol and he said he had that dream too. He also met up with Bramblepaw from RiverClan guessing that she was the bramble. He also guessed the last was from WindClan. He came across the border to find me and luckily I was close by. He told me what he thought and I agreed to find Morningsky. I found Morningsky hunting near the border yesterday and told her. We met up this morning and came to find you."

"That was very well done of you." Frostflower mewed. "Bramblepaw, Nettlefoot, the ones from RiverClan and ShadowClan are making their way home if you want them We will carry on

travelling back this way."

"Wait, can I come with you?" Nettlefoot asked. "It is probably quicker."

"Fine." Frostflower replied. "But don't come with us into WindClan camp. In fact, Foxclaw, Greynose, can you escort him over into our territory? But wait for us at the border."

The toms nodded their heads and began to make their way towards ThunderClan territory.

"I'll escort Bramblepaw back over into her territory." Morningsky offered.

"Uh-" Frostflower began.

"You are on my territory so you'll obay my rules!" Kestrelwing hissed. "Yes Morningsky, please take her home."

Dawnfire could feel anger coming off her best friend in waves. How could Kestrelwing be so bossy. Morningsky bounded away with Bramblepaw at her heels. They started to head towards the WindClan camp. After a while, the scent of cats hit her nose. They reached the dip that was WindClan.

Kestrelwing led them through the gorse and heather into the camp. Startled eyes darted back and forth as they stared at the new commers. Ashcloud, the deputy stood at the foot of a medium sized rock.

"Kestrelwing, Gorsepaw! Your back!" She mewed delightfully. "Harepaw, go get Brackenpelt, they have wounds that need to be attended too. Dawnfire, Frostflower, would you like your wounds treated too?"

"Um... what do you think Frostflower?" Dawnfire asked. Frostflower was still in charge, even though the were on WindClan territory so she thought that Frostflower should decide.

"Sure. Why not?" The white warrior replied.

"Good. Brackenpelt, enough for four." Ashcloud called.

Brackenpelt started treating their wounds. While he did that, the four cats explained what happened on their journey. WindClan had gathered around, watching with wide eyes as they described the fight with the bears. Frostflower had started to stutter again when they moved onto Rippletails' death so Dawnfire took over.

"Well, we griev for RiverClans' loss but at least you made it home safley." Ashcloud muttered.

"The thing that I don't understand is why did you let them drag Rippletail home?" A cat called from the back of the small crowd.

"Silverpebble wanted Rippletail to be home." Dawnfire said.

"But why-" He started.

"Just because she wanted Rippletail to come home!" Frostflower snarled, interrupting him. He shrunk back in fear, his ears flattened on his head and tail twitching back and fourth.

"well, I'm very glad you all made it home. I'm sure I can trust you on your way home without an escort." Ashcloud mewed.

"Yes you can." Dawnfire replied

"OK, but if there is any blood and prey scent with your scents, there will be trouble." The deputy threatened.

The two ThunderClan warriors bowed their heads and headed out the WindClan camp. They bounded through the heather, their pelts brushing. Frostflower started to slow down and so did Dawnfire.

"Are you OK?" She asked her friend.

"Yeah, I guess I'm just upset about Rippletail." She muttered.

"I am too, but she still lives with us, in our hearts." Dawnfire replied rubbing her muzzle against her cheek.

Frostflower purred slightly but stopped after a few moments.

Sunhigh had just past and they were close to the border. she could see Foxcaw and Greynose waiting for them at the stream.

"Hey. You took your time. We were starting to get worried." Foxclaw called.

"Come on, lets race to the border." Dawnfire suggested running off. She could hear Frostflower behind her, her paws scraping at the earth as they ran. She overtook her but Dawnfire quickly caught up and they reached the border side by side.

"Thanks," Frostflower puffed. "That's just what I needed to cheer me up. I've had so many troubles on my mind."

Dawnfire purred too. She always knew how to cheer Frostflower up.

Their mates greeted them with friendly purrs. Dawnfire stared up into the trees. They were home.

Chapter Thirty Two; The End

***** HEY guys. Thank you so much for reading, commenting, voting and fanning. Its been wonderful writing for you all. I am happy to say this is the last chapter so I hope you enjoy it. *****

The cats padded through the undergrowth, ears pricked for the signs of prey or cats. Ravenshadow had gone and escorted Nettlefoot home Greynose had twitched whenever a fern hit him or when a bird fluttered out a tree. She guessed he wasn't used to the sounds of the forest anymore. They had been away for almost half a moon, traveling through unknown lands with no foliage or lots of trees to hide in.

Leaf-fall winds must of brought down a lot of nuts, as she noticed that beech nuts were everywhere. *At least it would bring more prey.* She thought happily. She was glad to be under the trees again. It felt more safe, less threatening. More prey scent filled the air, making her mouth water.

"I wish we could stop and hunt." Greynose said voicing her thoughts. "But we need to get home."

"I'm sure that Ravenshadow would of told them we were coming and saved us some prey." Frostflower mewed impatiently, her claws digging into the soft earth.

They carried on and soon reached the thorn tunnel. Mews were coming from inside. The cats walked through and it turned to silence then an uproar of mews as the recognised their clanmates.

"Welcome home!" Goldenleaf mewed the loudest. Her three kits were jumping up and down in exitment, their tiny tails sticking out and their fur spiked up. Dapplekit came up to her, her green eyes wide.

"Did you really fight bears?" She asked.

"Yes we did." Dawnfire replied to her niece. Dapplekit nodded and ran away excitedly whispering to her littermates. Redstar appeared on the highledge.

"Welcome back!" He called. the Clan looked up at him and they quietly settled down to listen. "Dawnfire." Come up and tell us what happened." Redstar suggested. She felt privileged to come up and speak for her Clan, but then remembered Frostflower.

"Frostflower, come up with me." She whispered. Frostflowers' eyes brightened and she followed Dawnfire up the highledge. Redstar looked at her confused. "She helped lead." Dawnfire explained.

"Ah OK. Dawnfire, Frostflower, tell us about your travels." He requested. They took turns explaining their fight with the bears, the wolves, their journey and Rippletail. "We grieve for Rippletail." He mewed sadly.

"Birchpaw hasn't finished his training yet!" Mossnose exclaimed. Dawnfire felt a suddedn pang. She could of prevented this. Now Birchpaw wont have enough training.

"But maybe Rippletail will teach him the ways in his dreams." Runningshadow called. Maybe, but maybe that cant be done.

"Well done anyway. Glad to hear you defeated the bears. Hawkpaw, could you fetch them all some fresh kill. Mossnose, could you tend to their wounds."

"Brackenpelt did that in WindClan." Frostflower mewed.

"OK,"

Dawnfire was surprised that Hawkpaw was still an apprentice. He was supposed to become a warrior with Ravenshadow.

She went into the warriors den with Greynose and the lay down side by side and began sharing tongues.

** **WARNING: slightly soppy stuuf ahead! :D** **

"I love you Dawnfire. I really truly do. Foxclaw told me about you

and him many moons ago and what you did so they could be together made me realise how much you cared." Greynose whispered to her.

"I- I love you too Greynose. I hope you weren't angry about our secret. I basically kept that secret and forgot it, never thought about it." She replied. She looked into his eyes and saw her own feelings reflected in his eyes.

"I hope we could on day have kits." He mewed.

"I do too." She replied. Having kits would be wonderful, in fact, she always wanted to have kits.

Hawkpaw came in with a rabbit and a thrush. "Glad your back safe." He mewed.

"Hawkpaw, why are you not a warrior?" Greynose asked him.

"I fell into the stream and dislocated my shoulder hitting it on a rock." He replied as he walked out. Frostflower and Foxclaw came in now and began to groom each other.

"Wanna hunt later?" Greynose mewed to her.

"Yeah! That would be great!" She answered excitedly. She never got time alone with him on their journey.

"OK." He said happily. They continued to groom each other and tucked into their meal.

*

"Hawkclaw! Hawkclaw!" ThunderClan greeted the new warrior. Hawkpaw had been made a warrior at sundown. Dawnfire was happy. They were home and a new warrior was made. Also, after the ceremony, she was going out hunting with Greynose. Night time hunting was fun, but she didn't know why.

"Ready?" Greynose asked.

"Yeah. Lets go." Ravenshadow had told them of a trick he thought

of. Attracting squirrels and other prey with nuts. All you simply did as climb a tree with nuts, and shake the branch, wait for a while until prey wanders into your trap. He said that was how he passed his warrior assessment.

The padded alongside each other, entwining tails as they went. The scent of squirrel hit her nostrils and she dropped into a hunters crouch. She spotted the creature in the dark, its paws scraping at the ground burying a beechnut. She moved forward slowly, making her paw steps light. Once she was close enough, she wriggled her haunches and sprang, leaving the squirrel with no time to run. The sweet taste filled her mouth as she made the killing blow.

Greynose had caught a vole. He put it under a bush, ready to collect later. She became suddenly aware of how heavy her eyes were. She yawned.

"Wanna lie down for a bit?" Greynose asked guessing how tired she was. She nodded and put her squirrel with his vole. They curled down beside each other under the same bush where the prey was.

"Mmm." She purred as the warmth of his body seeped through his fur and into hers. She loved him very deeply, from the bottom of her heart, more than anything.

"I love you. I know I've already said today, but I want to make you understand that we were meant to be. Its like StarClan-"

"StarClan doesn't make mates." She purred sleepily. "But I love you too with all my heart, and I want you to understand that I am ready."

"For what?"

"For kits. Frostflower and Foxclaw are expecting and they are so happy. I am glad I stopped it with Foxclaw. They are perfect for each other."

"Wait, *you* stopped being mates with him?"

"Yeah. I told him that it wasn't going to work so that hm and Froostflower could be together because Frostflower loved him."

"Right, because he said that he shouldn't of left you when I got angry at you."

"I think he still cares about me. I think he just got shocked when that happened. He's always been very defensive of me especially when Frostflower is not around."

"I guess, but I'm protective of you too, and any kits we may have. I will be for ever until I myself join StarClan. I would die for you Dawnfire, you know I would." He mewed staring into her eyes.

She felt her heart explode at the sound of it. He really did care for her. Of course he would.

"I- I love you too Greynose, to StarClan and back." She replied pressing her muzzle into hers.

They snuggled together for ages until they slowly drifted away into sleep.

*

"Dawnfire! Greynose!" A loud call made her wake up. Someone was calling her. They were quite far away still.

"Greynose, wake up!" She hissed into his ear. He woke instantly,

"Are the kits coming? Oh great StarClan is Dawnfire OK?" He panicked.

"Greynose, calm down. Whats wrong?" She mewed gently.

"Oh Dawnfire. Thank StarClan. I was having a dream that you were having kits and I ... your OK!" He breathed.

"Yes I'm fine, but someone is looking for us."

"Dawnfire! There you are!" A relieved voice called. It was Frostflower. Now that she looked, she could tell her friend was a bit more plump then when she started the journey.

"Sorry guys. We went out hunting last night. Drifted off I guess."

Dawnfire muttered half to herself.

"Oh OK." Frostflower purred slightly.

"What?" She protested.

"Nothing." The white she-cat replied. "Come on. Lets go back. I didn't tell anyone else that you were gone because I didn't want to alarm them all."

"OK, thanks. Lets get our prey." Dawnfire mewed. She picked up her squirrel and carried it back to camp. She was clearly aware of Frostflowers' amusement coming off her in waves but ignored it.

"I've moved into the nursery now." Frostflower whispered.

"That's great!" She mewed back. She was happy her friend had moved into the nursery and she hoped she would too soon.

She looked around the camp, her eyes squinting in the early morning sunlight. The Clan was beginning to stir. Hopefully now that they fought away the bear and Tigerstars' death again, things would be more peaceful among the four Clans around the lake.

***** A fan fiction of the popular *Warriors* novel by Erin Hunter. Fan fiction written by DawnfireFantasy,**

I do not own the original Warriors series, only most of characters in this fan fiction, and the plot.

Thank you for taking time to read this, feedback is welcome.

Keep a look out for my next Warriors fan fiction. ***

Just an update :)

This is just.., an update? I guess, on my warriors fan fiction(s)

I wrote these when i was like 12/13. Now I'm almost 16. Basically, I won't be continuing the Warriors fan fictions. It's not that I've lost interest in the books, Warriors was my favourite series for a number of years and I loved reading them so much, it's just right now I have other story plans. The Warriors fan fictions were basically a start to me writing something, though I like to think I have advanced in the writing field. It's all happy memories in the past!?

I'm reaching my final 2 years in Academy/Secondary School also, I'm putting as much of my focus on school as well as the idea for a fantasy novel which I really want to write. School is stressful which only increases my anxiety levels. Writing fantasy is my escape, and my ideas for the fantasy novel are more important to me than continuing a fan fiction I've had on hold for months.

I hope you understand my reasons for not continuing the Warriors fan fictions,

Thank you to all those who read my completed one, and thank you for your opinions and criticism, it was all gladly appreciated :D

★♥★